

Community Panel Statement

Nillumbik's first Community Panel reviewing the Green Wedge Management Plan came together for their first full-day meeting on Saturday, 18 August 2018.

At the prior Panel "Meet and Greet" session, Panel members received a background report and community engagement summary report to assist them in understanding the challenges and opportunities for the Green Wedge. They were also provided a link online for all the verbatim comments received during the 6-week long wider community engagement program.

The panel spent time on Saturday discussing the challenge of the verbatim comments from the community engagement, in particular the six additional responses put forward by community groups and individuals. These six responses were detailed and therefore not analysed and incorporated in the summary report, however were made available as part of the verbatim data appendix.

After much discussion the Panel chose to put forth this statement:

"We, GWMP Review Panel, acknowledge that submissions were provided as part of the 'Community Engagement Report - Verbatim Responses' pack, despite no request for submissions by Council.

We understand some groups may feel disadvantaged and are mindful of this.

As we are a diverse range of Nillumbik residents we feel we represent the broader community.

We understand the draft plan will be open to public comment upon completion.

Thank you for your understanding."

Appendix 3

Nillumbik Green Wedge

Management Plan Review

Community Engagement Report

Verbatim responses

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Survey Responses

The survey was available on the Participate Nillumbik site as well as in hard copy.

NB: Responses have not been edited for grammar or spelling.

What do you like about living in / working in / visiting Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

I like that it has trees.
I can have a hosre
Living in a green environment and having the chance to take part in programs to encourage local plants and wildlife to survive despite human interference in their habitat. This is an area that many people visit to decompress and relax - walkers, bike-riders, horse-riders, photographers and so on.
Fresh air and natural beauty
I live in Nillumbik. The best thing about it is the environment - from bushland, to scrub, to forest, to river, to farmland. The fresh air and the peace and quiet are elements that nurture the soul and bring calm and happiness to me, my family, and people who visit here. And the smell - of eucalyptus on a hot day, of occasional smoke in winter. And the clean air and water.
The semi rural environment. Trees, open spaces
Enjoyment of both the rural and natural environments, including the wildlife. Trying to contribute by planting of native trees, etc.
That the natural environment is taken into account whenever possible.
The village and rural community atmosphere and character
We have lived on broad acre properties in the Nillumbik Green wedge since October 1962, and enjoy the environment and landscape both at home and driving in and out. The green wedge is attractive because of landscape and the diversity of uses and types.
Peace and quiet and less people
Living in an environment where the majority of landowners (not tenants) have cared for the area for decades in a manner that has allowed them to develop their land in a sensible reasonable way that has ensured the area remains in teh state it is today.
The open space, the environment, the wildlife. After growing up in the city, the Green Wedge landscape is to be treasured.
Wildlife & rural feel, + equestrian options.
We love living in the unique Green Wedge. We love the open spaces, the trees, the views, the native animals (kangaroos, echidnas, wombats, ducks). We like the community feeling generated by people living here.
Quiet open countryside.
Expensive rates supporting idyllic lifestyle
Having animals of all types and freedom to enjoy horse riding and motor bike riding and hunting.
The amount of trees - so so unique
The environment
Living in an area that has not been over-developed. Large land sizes. I would prefer less development and tighter controls such as the Pigeon Bank Rd house that was approved by council.
Space, native environment,

I love the bush and the open landscape. That's what I grew up with.
Open spaces. I like to have projects to do on my farm. Nice views. Good neighbors
I love the natural environment including the native flora and fauna of our area. I worked at Panton Hill in the GW for about 20 years and appreciated the short commute to work with a lack of traffic problems and the like minded people I interacted with every day. The noticable changes in the seasons and the vistas across the hills as the days shortened and lengthened. I am retired so I don't "visit" the GW apart from enjoying visiting friends and neighbours and the local businesses.
It's been my home for 40 years and I love the atmosphere, the greenery, trees, wildlife, the (general) quiet, the community feel. Like living in the country and "far from the madding crowd" (till recently.)
A country feel that is accessible
It is incredibly unique and special. It is increasingly rare to find such expanses of land and intact bush. It is a privilege to live and work amongst it and I believe it much be maintained and preserved into the future. A top priority with the corresponding overlays and budget to enhance it.
Being close to shopping facilities
the community feeling the trees the green wedge factor the historical artists using the area and that this artisan culture continues to this day because the area is mostly more bush then suburban and yet the suburban area of eltham and surrounds has continued to uphold the values of the shire and provide the community with an awesome existence and availability.
Sense of belonging to people and the land.
the diversity of the bush, the colours the stillness and the wildlife. and the fresh smell.
'Living in the GW we like: - an attractive mixture of relatively untouched natural environment/ecosystems and sustainable agriculture (vineyards, orchards, grazing) - village life - the scale, the friendliness, the numerous ways of being involved - sufficiently easy access to specialist services and a good train line to the CBD for those things that can only be found there - a good range of local trade services with a personal touch
The agricultural landscape - cattle and horses grazing on open pastures and signs of past orchards. This area is not good agricultural land but we don't want to let it go back to bush (as the greenies are hoping will happen).
Smaller village community feel on the edge of metropolitan Melbourne - not part of the urban sprawl. This is an enormous asset for the shire with historic sites such as Eltham township, Monsalvat, Eltham miniature railway, Diamond Creek town centre, Hurstbridge arts, St Andrews etc, Christmas hills all having the potential to become even more so with visionary management that positions the shire as an historic artisan district. This is potentially under threat by increased housing development and suburbia undermining the areas history and quality of life. Being able to look at hills that aren't covered with houses. Tree lined streets. Bushland. Wildlife.
Ability to work, farm, garden and enjoy the environment withing an hours drive from the city.
It is so beautiful
Away from the city
Community, tourism,
I love being a landowner here as it's unique. So environmentally diverse, people who care for the flora, fauna and each other. A wonderful community that works hard to defend what they love in an intelligent way. A Council that supports small business and thus provides

economic opportunities.
Why I like living in Hurstbridge is because it is a very good community, surrounded by nice, friendly people with no idiots like the inner suburbs.
Rural lifestyle Equestrian activity Keeping horses Shared used Trails in rural and bushland areas Open spaces
The treed green environment and the fact it is -- for now at least -- still not too crowded
The ease of moving from an urban environment to the bush. A lack of indiscreet development - factories and apartments. Ready access to a wide variety of visual and performing artists. The Eltham Little Theatre. The Kangaroo Ground and other general stores.
Quiet, which is being eroded, poor choices by council in approved architecture e.g. glare from roofs and windows ruin the landscape....it is not as peaceful or attractive as it used to be but it's our home.
Open more land to residents beyond Kangaroo Ground and Hurstbridge. We are beginning to overload the current infrastructure and need 'meeting' points. The Doreen traffic overflow needs to be addressed. We have such an amazing Shire, we cannot let standards slide.
Lack of urban development and vast areas of habitat for native plants and animals
Natural landscapes, undisturbed Bushlands, access to view threatened and rare species, pride in protection and preservation of flora and fauna, unique shire with important environmental corridors, green recreation for large and growing city
Farmers
The people, open space, the trees. I love the village feel of local townships, the walking tracks and the passionate community who is so proud of the environment we live in.
open spaces, lots of trees, community feel,
Real nature with priority to preservation of farmland and bush land as well as large trees. Support of council for farming and environmental preservation.
Many things! Strong communities, the natural environment, the train line, easy access to services. Great family facilities such as parks, bike tracks, Edendale farm, good pre-schools.
The trees and natural setting
The open spaces, and surrounding Bush land & wildlife
I live on a 30 acre property and moved here 8 months ago from a small block on a busy road in Eltham I enjoy the peace and tranquility of my home it is only an added 15 min drive from my old house which everything was located to some people may not like the extra travel time but for the lifestyle I no have I wouldn't change it at all
Fresh air, open space, horses and trees.
I live in Christmas Hills. I like having acreage. I like being able to ride my horse around the district. I like my kids being able to ride horses, mountain bikes and motor bikes. I like living a distance from my neighbours - it is peaceful to get home from the city every day and sit in the paddock and look at the paddocks and trees. I like working our land. I like riding the local trails.
Would like the council to show more understanding of those of us who still farm in the outer regions of Nillumbik and not impose inner city restrictions.
The peace and quietness
It's our livelihood
The feeling that I'm touching nature all the time
I like the fact that development is restricted and that the conservation of the natural environment is fundamental.
Nice feeling
The trees

The community that understands that nature is more important than the economic pocket of developers. The fresh air and the walking and cycling trails that give all ages the opportunity to explore and keep fit. The importance of local businesses such as the hurstbridge deli and butcher that help keep community together. I value the beautiful surroundings, the diversity of creatures and that despite some councillors trying to push a minority view that supports development ie. landowners wanting the green wedge changed so they can profit from subdivision, this push is making the community voice stronger for what is right, a green wedge management plan that protects and enhances the natural environment. We don't want to become Doreen or mernda, we value the trees and the biodiversity of this region. It is our responsibility to look after it.
I love the fact that Melbourne is surrounded by our Green Wedge environment. It is vital for our wellbeing and for protection of our native animals. I live in North Warrandyte on a two acre block which backs down to our Yarra river and love the fact that Melbournians from all over get to escape to here as well. We have a great balance and don't need any more development for tourism etc...
Green with so many trees & rolling hills, a sense of space, abundant wildlife. A breath of fresh air from Melbourne's urban sprawl. A sense of community.
The incredible native plants and wildlife especially the orchids
I live the fact that you can go for walks in beautiful bush land listen to the birds sing and occasionally run across a wild animal such as a wombat, echidna or wallaby.
The green wedge shire is world renowned for being the lungs of Melbourne. Its clean air and beautifully natural treed street scape are also, world renowned. Successive State Governments have sought to punish Nillumbik for daring to have less than half the population density (houses) compared to other nearby councils. I applaud previous Nillumbik Councils for resisting this zealous and purely economic push. This is why people want to buy, build and live in Nillumbik. This is also, no doubt, partly why our rates are at the highest or near highest in the state.
It's natural environment . Bushland settings . Rural character of the townships .That we can still experience close encounters with a range of wildlife due to our remnant bushlands .
Rolling hills; open landscape; distant views; fresh air (the lungs of Melbourne!) Bush walks through natural areas; encountering native fauna in their natural habitat; admiring wildflowers, rare orchids - native flora. Being able to picnic looking out over scenic valleys. Having easy access to a non-urban green space which provides habitat for native flora and fauna (our heritage); bird life. etc
The peace and tranquility from the trees, relaxing in them at the end of a hard days work,preferably with a gnt. Walking the dog.
I like the fact that the Zoning of the Green Wedge prevents subdivision and development which would not only further the decline of biodiversity in Nillumbik, destroy habitat but put extra cars on our already congested roads. I like the fact that my children and grandchildren will inherit a Green Wedge that respects nature and the environment. I like the fact that the Urban Growth Boundary keeps development in the towns not in the Green Wedge.
I love living in the Green Wedge for the wonderful bird life, the fresh air, the amazing native trees and the beautiful wildlife (kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, possums echidnas and more). I like that you can go for lovely walks and horse rides and enjoy a quiet time away from crowds of people and busy city noise.
Open space, native vegetation and wildlife. These are the reasons I choose to live in Nillumbik. I for one will fight tooth and nail against any sneaky attempts by council to further urbanise this beautiful shire. While we are at it, what about actually enforcing existing rules on land clearing in the shire. I'm fed up seeing people illegally trashing the environment while the council looks the other way.
Large blocks
I like the wide open spaces, the wildlife, the beautiful trees and wonderful views.

It is a wonderful place to visit with many walking tracks through bush lined roads. Not too much development giving a rare place of peace on Melbourne.
The trees/ bush/ open spaces
"Living in nature" and being in harmony with the seasons and the cycle of the seasons. The quiet and peaceful surroundings and reflecting on how all living things are connected and interdependent. Being removed from "concrete and capitalism".
Not only a great mix of environmental and agricultural uses for us lucky residents, but provides a vital breathing space for the more suburban parts of Melbourne. It is a privilege to play a small part in preserving this area.
Open spaces and friendly locals. Less traffic than in the suburbs.
the space and the quiet
The nature, the quiet residential streets, friendly neighbors, community feel.
The peace, the natural beauty, the bird life, the animal life, living with people who also appreciate such things. Shopping in Hurstbridge, enjoying a coffee or lunch.
The trees, the wildlife, large block of bush land, the open spaces a tightknit community.
I love the open spaces, fauna and flora, my back yard being visited by a wide range of birds, trail riding on my horse and walking on the trails. I peace and quiet of our area.
lower population density & hence less traffic & greater sense of community Natural features/ rural atmosphere Still close enough to amenities
Living on Land for Wildlife in this beautiful bush environment with abundant native wildlife is a privilege. Working on biodiversity projects protecting wildlife & rare species of flora - preserving indigenous vegetation is encouraged by our present GWMP which I hope will not change as it works very well. It supports a variety of land uses. Drawn here by this, we love it & are doing our part to save the important lungs of Melbourne which is appreciated by the many who visit here. Please save it from development as it is unique in the world & a treasure of which we are proud. Nillumbik is an especially rich environment so we do have a responsibility to conserve its beauty both for posterity & the health of our city.
It's our last chance to preserve flora and fauna so close to Melbourne. The area is so fragile and beautiful we need to protect it from over development and hopefully make people aware of the significance in keeping the character of the area and respecting it.
I live in Nillumbik's green wedge. The landscape, bushland and native fauna are hugely important. There is a sense of shared values among people living here that these things are very important and irreplaceable.
I can't live in the green wedge. I own land there but the Council won't let me live on it. So, currently, there is nothing good that is in my favour.
Love it
The open green spaces and rural fringe. The artists and the cottage farmers industry we can enjoy roadside
The beauty and the nature. Being so close to the city, but not feeling like you are.
Its close proximity to suburbia allowing our bushwalking group to undertake many great walks in the area.
It's where I grew up, it's my home.
The bush environment with local flora and fauna around our property, in reserves and wider locality. Less road congestion and a good supply of services for all ages.
Trees
It's not built up! Large blocks of land and wildlife and vast bush lands
We are privileged to live in the natural beauty of the river, trees and hills, sharing it with the native birds & animals. It is irreplaceable if it is lost. Being able to live in this semi-rural environment, within relatively easy reach of Melbourne's CBD for commuting, is marvellous.

The "Artisan Hills" region has many attractive options for cycling & walking
Thank goodness the State Government in 1970 had the for sight to attempt to set aside Green Wedges around Melbourne. With a growing population, even 48 years ago, it was considered wise to conserve un developed land into the future to preserve, amongst many other benefits, the liveability of Melbourne. I was fortunate to be able to move to a small bush block in St Andrews in 1987. As soon as the Landcare movement was established in about 1990, I joined other like minded people who appreciated the bush and wanted to care for it. This is why we live here. It is a great privilege.
I love the beauty and real ness of the environment. I love the community that is vibrant and that is active in caring for each other and the environment.
Quiet rural environment, lots of wildlife, natural environment, sense of the past and at times the deep past
I love the natural, bush environment, the rural properties which are not cleared and provide habitat for native wildlife, the public open space, the 'village' feel of towns, the separation of townships by large properties, the rural/natural feel of the area, the wildlife, the feel of community, art/crafts, cafes.
I like the trees and with that comes many beautiful birds and animals. We have beautiful rolling green hills on our doorstep and a lot of bush that gives a tranquil feeling of being away from it all when we are also close to the city. Nillumbik is unique but slowly being destroyed by developmet
Fresh air, undeveloped green trees space, birds, native wildlife and habitat, access to the Yarra river through, lower pollution, community building, a sense of unique history heritage and artistic inspiration. Places to go walking.
We love all the trees (and birds) in the area. We love that there are no high rise buildings. We love that we can walk the dog on wonderful tree-lined, " native" paths. We love that you feel "in the country" within 5 minutes of leaving home
I love the environment, the open spaces, the wildlife, and the clean, fresh air.
I love it
The fresh air. The tree canopy. The character and feel of country living in the city.
I like the open space with trees, fields, and clean air. I like the sound of nature and the solitude.
Love being surrounded by open space.
I love the lifestyle it affords our family. We enjoy taking the family dog for a walk, riding our bikes, along the Yarra River, bike tracks, playgrounds and off the track new spaces we find all the time. We love living in a space that is green, has a great community spirit and people with like minded ideas about protecting our green space for future generations to come.
I love the beautiful walks, the birds, the local history and the local people. I love that it's a little slice of peace not too far from the city.
I like the open space and fresh air. The Green Wedge is the lungs of the city.
the tree the open spaces the arts community the unusual homes and buildings the commtunity spirit the trees the green wedge priorities of the residents the pars and playgrounds the sporting fields
Rural feel, low density living.
The fact that there is bush everywhere and yet we can still get to town if we need to.
Sparse population. Living close to the bush and nature
It not being over developed, animal corridors, personal safety.
The unspoiled bushland , wide open places, unique wildlife, and flora
The natural beauty, low density housing, feeling like I live in a community rather than a city.
The wildlife, open space, trees, tranquility.

The natural environment. The fauna and the fish air and quietness.
The unique space and tranquility of the area, its bush, parks , riding trails, parks, village like shopping centres. Many good and content people live in our shire
I love having relatively little development - please NO townhouses. We are known to have large blocks of land and lots of open space. Lets keep it this way. Eltham Jazz festival is amazing. We have a really good community spirit.
the feeling of peace and quiet, the space around us (we live on 20 acres) but still have neighbours close by, being part of a small community and getting involved in the community in different ways
I have lived in Hurstbridge for 35 years and in that time it has retained it's rural community and township feel. The Green wedge has enabled this to happen and I believe all residents feel the same.
I choose to live in the green wedge for the sound of the wind blowing in the trees, the birds tweeting, the water gurgling through the rocks, the dark skies at night, owl and possum calls. It is a haven from the concrete, hustle, horns, exhausts, neon lights, traffic, of the city where I work. The green wedge provides me a place to enjoy living amongst nature while being within commuting distance of employment, community and health services.
Access to active recreation in quiet zones, green zones. Cycling and walking. Readily accessible spaces for escape, perhaps sanctuary from urban noise and congestion. Options for showcasing aspects of Melbourne to visitors, which they aren't aware exists. The spreading of low density development would eventually close off these joys to all who follow us.
I love the open spaces, natural bush environment, trees, great variety of birds large and small, and native animals in this area.
The bushland environment, having amazing flora and fauna on my doorstep.
I live here largely because of the treed atmosphere connected to the Green Wedge.
The natural environment and space around us.
The beautiful green landscape and biodiversity.
The natural environment that surrounds us. Our township feels like a village and not a suburb.
Trees. Space. Not too many people and crowds.
The bush, the rivers and creeks, the peacefulness, the green open spaces and areas with no billboards/advertising.
The native tree's, which attract bird life, offer security for possums and an arrange of insects and small reptiles
The opportunity to be a temporary custodian of the land, to nurture it for it's own sake and for the sake of the creatures who depend on it as well as to personally enjoy the space, the quiet and the caring community.
Open space, abundance of native tree, quiet, large house blocks
I like the trees, the animals, the fresh air, the hills, the feeling of openness and the absence of concrete and asphalt and buildings everywhere.
Apart from the sheer panoramic beauty of the Green Wedge, it is the inspiration it provides just for thinking, doing creative work, growing vegetables and escaping from the increasing destructiveness of the economic order of the day. As well as the cliched lungs of Melbourne, it also functions as an effective carbon sink for soaking up greenhouse gases. Looking over the King Lake ranges from an elevated position is almost as good as looking over the Eastern Himālayas from Darjeeling. Spectacular and invigorating.
The green!! The trees, hills, wildlife and the fresher air
1. The natural bushland and riverland areas 2. Protection for Green Wedge and strict planning controls to preserve the environment and

not result in overdevelopment (such as being currently carried out in Montmorency, Diamond Creek and Eltham)
3. Living alongside people who also care to protect this amazing place we live in and don't want to have multiple cars, massive houses, quad bikes
Indigenous flora and fauna being respected and appreciated
The most important thing to our whole family in moving and going to work and school here has been the natural environment, extensive native tree canopy, and wide range of birds and wildlife. There are no other areas in Melbourne that have this biodiversity and that has the advantage of limits on development.
I/we have been living in Nillumbik since 1973 and purchased our block of land (Eltham-Woodridge) in 1970. It was love at first sight with me when I saw the natural environment of Eltham. Much has changed since then, unfortunately to the detriment of the environment. Unpaved roads became paved, more suburban than semi-rural living spread into the Green Wedge. The last few years have become oppressive: the township has developed and continuous to develop high-density housing, Eltham village is now Eltham township. The roads have become congested to the point of nightmares. They were constructed for quarter-acre block-one dwelling living; they cannot cope with the onslaught of traffic. I still love living in Nillumbik and would not want to live anywhere else, but this mad development must stop.
The protected natural environment, the sense of "bush living", the variety of fauna & flora, the communities desire to continue to protect the Green Wedge environment.
Love living in Nillumbik's Green Wedge. Love looking out my front door and see Wedge Tailed Eagles soaring, love the occasional sighting (sadly getting less frequent) of echidna. Love the smell and sight of the Clematis and Acacia in August, and the sound of the frogs when it rains
I like living in a bush setting but being near the city. It's beautiful to have so many trees, native animals and birds around, places to swim in the river, places to go bushwalking in. It's always a pleasure to invite my friends and family to visit because they live in the city or the suburbs and it feels like a retreat for them.
The natural environment which is outstanding and needs to be preserved and conserved for present and future generations
The fact that there are protected spaces, bushland, river and some biodiversity, native animals and so close to the city. Knowing about Aboriginal Heritage in this area. The people who are passionate about protecting, nurturing and improving the Green Wedge here.
The highly valuable conservation areas of the Shire - where the indigenous natural environment is valued and actively protected. It's semi-rural nature. It's treed landscapes and native wildlife.
The peaceful environment and general 'cleanliness' (air, water, people, attitudes, style) makes it an amazing place to live.
The trees and natural environment.
The significant contribution it makes to the semi rural feeling of the shire. That it delineates a boundary to further urban expansion as supported by planning scheme legislation.
I like the Green Wedge because of the native trees and it is not overdeveloped and it is a great place to live with good amenities with sensitive planning.
Gum trees, walking tracks, reserves breaking up the street scapes, clean air, feel of being in nature
How fantastic to be so close to a big city but have natural Bush, wildlife and rural vistas. It is a privilege to live here but also I believe is an essential buffer zone to our increasingly populated city.
I like working there because it is Wildlife Corridor and I am interested in Natural History --- its biodiversity, inter-connections and uniqueness. Its Health and Wellbeing effects are far-

<p>reaching --- into the CBD and into surrounding areas. I like the 'feel' of the Green Wedge --- its fresh air and beautiful vistas.</p> <p>I like the respect many people have here for Aboriginal Culture, Social History and Natural History which is much older, going back millions of years. I value the opportunities I have to work with people who share my interests and show me how best to protect the natural environment --- specially the endangered species.</p>
<p>That my kids get to grow up surrounded by trees, kangaroos and all types of birds. The bike tracks and walking tracks that go through all this amazing scenery and travelling on roads surrounded by parks and trees. It's what sets this shire apart from the rest</p>
<p>The smallish village like communities within the area with a mix of peoples and a sense of community to connect to - with the 'fellow feeling' that this facilitates; notwithstanding diverse backgrounds, socio-economic standing and belief systems. The bush - allows me to connect with fresh air and natural bush without going to 'a prepared park' and to share the experience of un-chartered (more or less) space with my children. This allows improved understanding of natural history phenomena - birds, plants, animals, ... rocks, and the mix of all. Support for relatively independent living and working at self-sustaining aspects of lifestyle.</p>
<p>I find living in the Green Wedge provides a sense of calm and tranquility, largely due to the many trees, abundance of wildlife and low density of housing where I live (Cottles Bridge). I genuinely believe that this environment brings positive health benefits through walking in nature; benefits which are more difficult to realise in more developed urban areas.</p>
<p>The large open areas and trees. Still the Australian dream of having a backyard.</p>
<p>I chose to live in this area to be emerged in nature. The massive gum trees on my property, the varied birds, bats, possums, sugargliders, echidnas, kangaroos. We are different to other suburbs and I would like Nillumbik to stay that way, including our town centres.</p>
<p>The reason we live in Nillumbik is because of the existence of the Green Wedge. When moving to Melbourne for work we toured around the broader Melbourne area for some time and decided that the Eltham area fitted our criteria the best.</p> <p>It is an area where one can be fairly close to nature - bush, animals, clean land and air and therefore can live and bring up children in relatively safe and healthy conditions.</p>
<p>I chose to make Hurstbridge my home because it is one of the very few townships left in outer Melbourne that has retained its unique character and village lifestyle. I love being able to walk along dirt tracks outside my front door, to come across the odd kangaroo and to breathe in the pure fresh air from the many tall trees along the track. No wonder property prices have soared in the area, as day-trippers experience what other places have lost through rapid and haphazard development.</p>
<p>The trees, especially those that are old and magnificent, the vegetation, precious open spaces, air that is generally cleaner than that found in more developed areas and the birds.(although there has been a recent reduction in varieties and number in recent times)</p> <p>The number of people who are prepared to work to actively oppose inappropriate development.</p> <p>And while my evidence for this is only anecdotal, I believe that there is more interest and appreciation of arts and crafts in the green wedge than in the general population, and people with skills and talent in these areas who share their work with the rest of us</p>
<p>I like the uncluttered housing,bush,farm animals,horses and horse trails.</p>
<p>I live in the Bend of Islands. I appreciate being so close to nature among the native animals and bushland. It is such a privilege to live in such a pristine area. Every morning I wake in awe by the nature beauty of the bush.</p>
<p>I love the environment - the bush, the fresh air, the wildlife, the space, the openness. I love feeling that it is different from other built up areas of Melbourne. It is a precious commodity for all to enjoy.</p>
<p>I ride thousands of kilometres each year in the Nillumbik Green Wedge - because I like it. It has an unruly, relaxing character.</p>

The abundance of indigenous flora and fauna, especially trees. the presence of magnificent old trees. The presence of rare and threatened flora and how our area is a haven for these threatened animals. The large land parcels which allow for hobbies and wildlife together. The relatively lower population density
I love living in the green wedge. We moved out here in the 90s to leave the city behind to unfortunately have it follow us out with its associated issues. I am not interested in being overdeveloped.
The sense of community, the ability to have my horses at home with me and the amazing trail riding that the area offers. Love the mixture of bush and paddock
Being close to the city and the country all at once
Natural, undeveloped environment
The good mix of protected/limited-access areas (e.g. environmental reserves) and accessible green areas (e.g. Long Gully trails, Diamond Creek corridor). Although more needs to be done to protect and enhance environmental values, these values are celebrated and recognized as forming the "character" of Nillumbik. There is a good amount of public land in the right places (e.g. the creek corridors and linking bushland between Warrandyte and Kinglake) - acquiring private land that compromises these values should form part of the strategy moving forward.
The environment, the biodiversity, the waterways, the knowledge that this is such an important landscape that forms the greater Melbourne area. Also, generally the people who live in the Green Wedge are people that enjoy its values and therefore are likely to help improve or care for and protect the green wedge.
Love living in the Green Wedge - but traffic is becoming a nightmare
Its a breath of fresh air (literally!), it is a nice balance between urban and nature and forms a really important connection to nature, it needs to be protected for the future.
In retirement I turned my back on suburbia preferring space, a wide horizon and the quiet of a bush setting. I found more than that; a friendly welcoming community, people who care about each other and the environment in which they live and, after a bit of adjustment, an easy train ride to the cultural life of Melbourne.
So close to Melbourne but feels so far away. Also the sense of Community (St Andrews).
Native vegetation, walking tracks, involved community, Edendale farm, community facilities, council staff willing to partner on events for community
Peace and quiet. Green landscape, non urbanised. Opportunity for outdoor activity right on doorstep
Natural Environment. Community
The bush land and open agricultural vistas
I love living in the green wedge due to its natural beauty. Having space, trees and the river beats living in the suburbs.
The environment including vegetation and wildlife. The variety of vegetation from very large old trees to the daintiest of orchids is extremely important to the well-being of the community. Everywhere else is concrete. We have numerous birds from cockatoos and parrots to tiny wrens and wedge tailed eagles. We are able to observe kangaroos and have echidnas visit our property. A wide variety of frogs live in our garden. The Green Wedge is our commitment to our environment when all around is development and the destruction of our land.
A quiet rural environment and friends
Green spaces, community atmosphere, low traffic
everything that we have now
Beautiful unspoilt area with a strong sense of community and ownership by residents. very wildlife friendly which is important.
The diverse nature of the landscape - open spaces, farms and bush - beautiful views.

Also the friendly supportive community and the abundance of wildlife
The sense of space and connections to nature. Trees!!
I like the natural aspects of the NGW - its wonderful native plants and animals. I like the closeness of this natural space to a large city thus enabling city people to learn about, appreciate and have contact with nature, which are all so important in our increasing urbanised world. I like the role that the NGW plays in halting further urban sprawl (at least in this direction). I like interacting with other Nillumbik folk who share these values, and working with them to protect this special and precious place.
I love the fact that I can go on my 5 k morning walk, and not see another house...they are big bush blocks preserved by a community that appreciate and care for the environment they are fortunate enough to live in.
Green spaces close to the city are important for every-one.
forest, air quality, birdlife, native fauna
Love the piece and quite. Enjoy living in the bush less than a hour commute to city.
Preservation of biodiversity. Large areas of vegetation on private and public land, that helps preserve biodiversity into the future
The rural & relatively unspoiled landscape. Its proximity to urban Eltham.
Quiet, reprieve from being swamped by people and buildings and noise. The nature- trees and birds who revive my soul on a regular basis. I find the areas where people and suburbs predominate, are increasing being rubbished with people throwing litter, and there is an aggression in the atmosphere. Away from this, there is a simplicity and I choose this over development. Every time. As I value staying sane in an increasingly insane world.
I enjoy the space, freedom and cleaner way of living
Privilege in being the custodian of a unique place immersed in flora and fauna. 1hr 30min - 2hr proximity to CBD - car or rail and car. Sense of safety provided by being 'off the radar' so to speak. Opportunities to visit and support local reserves, wineries, working farms, etc.
I love the tree covered hills, the fresh air, the native animals and the peace of space around myself and others. I like the lack of traffic noise, the seasonal leaf change with the grape vineyards and the slow pace of the service at the general store. I like the care the locals take to look after their acreage, the lack of rubbish and the constant planting of bushes and trees by the council and neighbourhood. I like the serenity!!
Living within a natural bushland environment .
The natural environment, its diversity and its total synergistic harmony and balance to survive the pressures of humanity.
The indigenous animals and trees along with the clean waterways.
The fresh air and beautiful environment we share with the wonderful flora and fauna. I feel privileged to live in such a great place, yet disheartened by the many new comers that don't appreciate the area they've moved to.
I love it! But pitty about the number of road kill I have to endure each day. Could it be that city slickers don't know how to drive on our roads? Or is it a council worker keeping himself in a job....? Maybe it's the farmer that hates the animals eating the cows grass?
Being surrounded by nature makes me feel happy and calm. I always feel noticeably relaxed as I drive back home from more built up suburbs. I also enjoy spending time outdoors in the parks and walking along trails and showing my son the plants and animals.
Love the green open spaces. Love the family friendly atmosphere and facilities. Love the peaceful atmosphere. Places I visit regularly are the farmer market, library, parks, playgrounds, ovals with the dog, cafes.
We moved to Eltham 2 years ago to raise kids in a green area without too much development. Melbourne is growing. High density living is happening. It is destroying some wonderful areas; and once developed you can't get it back. Protect the green wedge. It's

why we live here.
Having access to Nature so close to Melbourne including some rare and endangered species.
It's relaxing atmosphere due to nature and parklands. Particularly where i live- the butterfly reserves and the park that runs from eucalyptus rd to bible st.
The friendly, welcoming community. The events and culture. The cafe's and eating places. The ability to go on a walk and feel like you're in the country.
I like being able to come home to a fairly unique place. Although just outside the green wedge in North Warrandyte i find it relatively peaceful.
It's not built up with town houses and units. The bush and the agricultural land
Open space, flora and fauna
It's precious, biodiversity in indigenous vegetation alongside a more urban population.
The picturesque bushland landscape and open spaces. Visiting the small rural townships like Panton Hill, St Andrews and Hurstbridge. Native fauna living nearby and visiting my house. The bushland with rich native flora especially orchids, fungi etc... Going for a bike ride on quiet country roads
Its a collaborative mixture of landscape, mindset, location and peace.
Rural character. Small towns. Support for the environment from Nillumbik Shire. Access to the city. Access to the north and west of Melbourne, including the airport
I love living in the rural areas and being able to keep our horses on our property. I love riding the trails on my horse and walking the dogs as well.
I work in the shire and find it to be a relaxing and magnificent environment. The acreage properties with the variety of livestock, horses and wildlife make it a terrific place to work and live.
The environment and the values to protect
I enjoy the feeling of being back in nature, not just in another suburb
I have lived in the Bend of Islands since 1981 and I have loved every part of it. Living in the bush is very special and the protection of this area is extremely important to me. Being part of the Conversation Cooperative has meant that we have managed and looked after 320acres of bush since 1971. The Bend of Islands is a big part of the Green Wedge Corridor from Kinglake through to Warrandyte. I love the bush, the wildlife, the quiet, no cats, dogs or horses and the peaceful life we all live here. There have been many challenges living out here from the categories below, but all of them have been worth it because preserving the bush is the most important thing and not allowing it to be divided up and ruined is paramount to keeping the bush and the lifestyle we value so much intact.
The greenery, the peace, it is where generations of my family have lived, and the heritage of Nillumbik
Environment. Open space. Long term security of both
I love the green open spaces and large living blocks. We have "land for wildlife" status and we are keen to maintain this and see other porperties the same
Natural Environment and Open Space
I love the country look and feel without being too far from shopping malls and services
The green wedge character which to me means travelling from a rural conservation zoned property to human-scaled townships for connections out and for local services. Enjoying caring for the bushland around us.
I love the trees and open paddocks, it is such a lovely blend. The animals grazing and the peace and tranquility.
Close to the city but all the advantages of being in the country.
Space to enjoy on my property, excellent neighbours. Quiet. Ability to grow and eat or sell produce.

Lots of birds and wildlife, although the kangaroo numbers have increased to nuisance proportions
The fact that it is still green and that people can enjoy the open spaces and the recreational areas which are vital to a healthy society. Farming is still an important part of the area and is integral to the maintenance of the environment, the way of life and local employment.
I enjoy the strong community, the heritage and aesthetics that towns retain over the years, and the dense native nature and forests.
I love the drive as much as the destination, after a busy week in the city it reminds me what Australia is really about.
Nillumbik has a such a natural feel. You can walk around and feel part of nature. Rolling hills, creeks, fresh air, wildlife. It's beautiful.
it was this amenity that made me and other people settle in the area
When I moved to the Green Wedge I liked the quantity and quality of the native bushland. The roadside vegetation was intact and full of rare species. There was pink heath and orchids in abundance. Landowners with cleared land grazed cows or horses or farmed orchards. Those with bush blocks protected it and enjoyed the wildflowers and the wildlife. Not so now. The roadside vegetation disappeared with the rise of the ride on mower. The bushland reserves are full of trails for horses and bikes with even greater pressure from feral animals. Private bush blocks are being cleared by stealth and grazed illegally. The ground story vegetation of lilies, orchids and grasses is being destroyed by the hooves of horses, cows and now deer. The biodiversity in our Green Wedge is under threat. Loss of habitat and wildlife corridors put pressure on the whole ecosystem including insects which are relied upon for pollination of our orchids. We have 40 species of orchids on our 8 hectare bush block. The biodiversity of our bush block relies on what happens throughout the Green Wedge in Nillumbik and neighbouring Shires.
As a long term resident of the bend of islands I have greatly enjoyed the stability offered by the Green Wedge in terms of: Managing land zoning, providing a wildlife corridor, supporting endangered Flora & Fauna, provides visually pleasing landscapes without major housing developments. The current planning regulations support the green wedge which in turns supports a unique bush environment in the Bend of Islands without supportive planning regulations the A-Z could not exist in the green wedge. The conservation planning entrails allow us to enjoy a wonderful lifestyle in the bush but still close enough t visit the city when we want other shopping or stimulation. The changing of seasons of the bush in the green wedge is a joy to experience.
I like the feel of living in a country town. Open spaces, places for my children to grow up in.
Having been a land owner and resident in the Green Wedge (bend of Islands) since 1971, an important has been the long-term .. of the protection of the unique bushland environment. Integral to the Green Wedge are the planning provisions that define the fundamental value of the area nd the mechanisms to protect those values. THE ELZ is the jewel in in the town of NSC and the Green Wedge and the GW provides essential buffer to the valuable asset. The importance of this buffer should nto be under-estimated. The integrity of the EZZ is independent on maintaining consistent long-term conservation planning control to allow all of NSC residents and those beyond to continue to enjoy the values of conservation of our bush.
I like the Green Wedge (live & resident) because of the nature, biodiversity, woods, creeks & river and connection to indigenous (Wurundjeri) past. It also allows to live sustainably from land (grow own food), "spade-to-fork" and supports close community supportive relationships through different interests.
The green wedge gives the opportunity to live in natural bush & open space rather than suburbs.
I love the clean air, the space and the wildlife. It is a precious spaciousness in the midst of a busy bustling city. It is fresh air, wild animals, open areas, bush habitats. I love the river and

being able to enjoy all it has to offer.
<p>> Specifically in the Bend of Islands - I fully support and agree with the principles underlying the special use zone which seek to preserve & enhance the unique environmental values of the area</p> <p>> like the fact that the Green Wedge incorporates the wildlife corridor from Kinglake to the Yarra River & beyond</p> <p>> I love the general landscape values of Nillumbik - a mixture of bushland & open space, it's rural quality</p> <p>> Green Wedge provides opportunities for bushwalking across country via various open spaces, trails, creeks & gullies, local tracks & roads), river based activities such as kayaking and for general appreciation of the environment, all within easy access to Melbourne.</p>
<p>Before I even saw a Green Wedge it was described to me by a friend as living in a National Park. When I moved there I saw what she meant!</p> <p>How did I get to my late 30s without even hearing about a Bush tailed phascogale? Apart from a zoo had I even seen an echidna in the bush? Watched as a mob of shy black-tailed cockatoos fed on my trees, on my property? Kangaroos and wallabies have their own preferred "roads" through our bush, but sometimes they just gently let me know that tiny pink roses are just like chocolate - yummy and they'll leave me one!</p> <p>It's a privilege to live with these critters in their habitat and I figure it's up to me and the rest of my community to enjoy our lives here but also remember two things. We share it with a huge amount of critters, birds, insects who were here before us so deserve our respect, and we manage our block as part of a whole for all of Melbourne/Vic and our visitors. A tip out on a weekend helps mentally and physically for everyone who comes can't put a price on that or maybe we should?!</p>
The trees and the fresh air and wildlife we enjoy as a result.
I do not live in Nillumbik or Banyule.
Trees. I dunno.
I really like the amount of trees and plants and places to be free and explore. I would love to preserve all that.
The Green Wedge is a very special and important place to me! It is a Protected area where so many native flora and fauna can live and exist in an non-threatened environment! I feel incredibly privilege and grateful to live here in harmony with the bush!
i like the places where there are no houses but a load of trees.
I think it is nice to live in the nice landscape I hope the mayor keeps it that way
it is very nice and the people who are in charge care about this area
its quiet, green, and the suburbs are relatively small. The only thing is that the council could work on keeping the suburbs small and not overpopulated.
I like how there aren't too many big buildings and how it's always very clean.
its green, quiet, homey and very communal - you get stuck in to helping out the small community.
It is quite and it isn't busy.
I like bike riding and this is a good spot.
I like how there is so much trees around this area and so much nature. There is a lot of bush and nice plants growing around Nillumbik and a lot of people enjoy being around and living here.
It is full of nice people . The Bush makes me feel free. And working in it is a pleasure
I didn't know Nillumbik's Green Wedge existed until today.
I like that there are not many big buildings and there is so much nature in Nillumbik
you can walk your dog in good spots
I like living in Nillumbik because there are lots of bike/foot paths.

the trees and plants and animals and spaces to play.
I like that we see lots of wildlife and it feels really nice.
I didn't know what the "Green Wedge" was until today therefore I am unable to answer this question.
it's green it doesn't have haunting towers looking down at you.
its green quiet buitifull and nice comunity
The wedge is a very welcoming and accepting place to live. The greenery surrounding the area makes it a peaceful and pleasant area.
I like living in Nillumbik because there are lots of bike/foot paths.
That you have more space to do thing. That you aren't just looking into big tall buildings and into cement. Also you have a nice view.
Its just nice, a of place to live in, a bit busy but only in after school or work hours but it moves fast.
I think that to work in fresh, green environment it would clear your mind and would do good to everyone.
The community is nice.
It is very nice and peaceful here. There is not much pollution and it is not over-populated.
I like the environment and the animals.
I like how we are lucky to be living in an environment where it is safe and we can enjoy the environment us.
what i like about living in Nillumbik is that there is lots of greenery around us and also we are not to close to the middle of the bushes but i may just be me.
I love visiting the green wedge because it is a place where I can sit, relax and let all my thoughts out. The green wedge is an amazing place for people to explore.
I love living here because of the environment.It is so nice to have trees everywhere and having lots of animals on my property
The amount of trees is nice and there is a lot of fresh air.
I like the biodiversity it provides and how that makes each neighbourhood more peaceful.
It feels good to live in a healthy place.
it makes me feel like i'm more with outdoors
Its really green and people are nice.
I like how green some parts are. I like how easy it is to access the public transport. The people are also really nice in the green wedge.
I like the atmosphere around us and the greenery.
I like the beautiful scenery that you can visit and admire. The air is clean from pollution and its clean green.
Being able to be in and amongst the beautiful greenery. I also love waking up in the morning
The nature is very very beautiful, there is plenty of bush land and maybe too much. I also like how there is some small buildings and not many big buildings covering the land.
It's very green and environmental.
I love the beautiful scenery and tranquil sounds. Experiencing a healthy environment away from the city is a real pleasure.
The green and beautiful fact that your in Melbourne though surrounded by green. The idea of mud brick homes are great and should be set in place more and more. The down side is that there are plenty of people in Nillumbik green wedge and there should be more public transport in and out of the city to here.
I like how close everything is and it's easy to get around you can just get on a bus or a train and go where you want to. The community is really nice and we have good emergency services.

The plants
I like how its not that busy. Not many cars, you can just relax. Also its a beautiful and clear view, The community is nice too.
The Green wedge has more greenery / nature.
it has good vibes and its not polluted. I like it because its healthy.
I enjoy the natural peace and quiet in the green wedge
I like the trees and the amount of animals and the good grass in some areas. and seeing the sun set through the trees.
i like when the sun rises and how nice, beautiful and green the grass is.
I really like living in the Green Wedge. You see so much life everywhere you look. There are the trees, animals, running water, and the sound that calms you. It's just beautiful living here, we are truly lucky.
i like the fact that its not to big and you can easily get your way around
I love waking up and having the mist and the fog even though it can get quite cold. I love how it isn't modern but I don't like how everyone is trying to make it modern. I also love how much nature is around and how almost every were you look it's green.
its good
I like that there is a lot of greenery and life.
I like that its a healthy and safe enviroment and all the animals are so beautiful, i love when the sun sets in the morning over all the trees.
I like the grass, animals and the way the sun creeps through the trees in the morning. The fresh air makes me feel calm and refreshed.
meh.
I love the community-type atmosphere and how there are so many trees and animals.
I like the environmental friendliness of the area and how green it is. I also like the quality of the water.
I like the serenity and the natural feeling.
The amount of plants and animals and scenery
I love living around all the bush and trees and all the wild animals like birds, kangaroos, deer's, and foxes. and the community is very welcoming around where I live.
My favourite thing about them is the feeling of freedom. The way you can sense the birds and animals having a home and fresh air. Living amongst trees, tones of grass, animals and plants can create a feeling of happiness and freedom.
In the mornings the sun shines and create shadows next to the gum trees. The sun's rays peak through the leaves. In the morning I love looking at the view of the mountains and hills, they look so mysterious. The air is so crisp in the winter mornings it's quite pleasant to breathe in.
i love how much greenery and bush there is in the parks, national parks and trails.
The natural environment is so important to the mental wellbeing of us all. In our part of the Green Wedge we enjoy seeing wombats, echidnas, swamp wallabies, kangaroos, possums and phascogales on a regular basis, and koalas and lyrebirds occasionally. Nillumbik's green wedge is also an important part of the lungs of Melbourne, removing large quantities of gaseous pollutants.
I love the isolation hat we can have in our beautiful mudbrick home that we built from the earth here. The sound of the yarra river running past, the birds the mammals & repties & lots of other little ebasties. I also love our community hat we socialize and worth with to protect this wonderful piece of the world. We are 30 minutes from Diamond Creek, Eltham, Hurstbridge, Warrandyte & Yarra Glen. All having beautiful scenery to enjoy along the way. There are wonderful bike & walking trails. Festivals to attend & wineries. St Andrews weekly market & a growing number of farmers markets. There is a wonderful group of people who

form the Nillumbik Landcare Network. We may not see each other for months, but we come together to protect this place. We are all living here because we love it & will always do all we can to protect it. Great people in a great place.
As a resident land owner for 26 years the green wedge has provided the open space environmental living we chose. The creation of Nillumbik in 1995 & the adoption of "green wedge shire" logo embraced the green wedge concept & implementation. Nillumbiks wedge provides a bush/environmental living experience just 25km from Melbourne CBD. Remote living, flora & fauna, serviced by townships to provide goods & services required. The famous st Andrews market and Hurstbridge wattle festival. The artist open studio weekends. Wineries, eateries, etc. Mud brick buildings. Our native heritage. Ours to maintain & protect for the future.
the contrast with the busy urban scene
> How beautiful country style environment with trees, landscape, small villages > Living on hand of wild life with animals close by discovering rare species black wallabies, echidnas, birds. Working to conserve the beauty, flora & fauna.
the fact that it is green and there is access to nature both visually and physically
Peace and quiet, green trees, open space, lack of crowds, lovely community, people care about each other.
Bush, wildlife, greenery, clear air, feeling of being close to nature.
Green canopy, open spaces, friendly people.
The fact that our forefathers set aside this area for all future generations to enjoy its tranquility and provide a home to flora and fauna
Experiencing natural bush land which isn't too far away from the city or suburbia
Lack of development and how the green wedges are the 'lungs' to Melbourne and the protection they afford to many species, including many rare and threatened.
The bush. Maintaining wildlife corridors for native species.
Outstanding environment. In 1999 we moved our business from Mitchum to Research to enjoy the benefits of working in an area surrounded by a beautiful environment
contact with the natural world
I value and find beauty and peace in the native, intact bushland. I feel privileged to reside and work amongst a natural environment where native plants and animals are protected and valued.
I love the fact that I can see threatened species close to my house such as the Powerful Owl pair that raised 2 chicks and the Brush-tailed Phascogale that ran across our path the other night close to our house. It is great knowing that we are protecting the environment that these animals need so close to Melbourne.
The natural bushland and wildlife that lives there Living near this lifts my spirit.
I am one of a large group of bushwalkers who use Nillumbik's Green Wedge for recreation. I estimate that I walk over a thousand kilometres each year in the Green Wedge in walks organised by one or other of the two bushwalking groups to which I belong or on my own. Bushwalking is the way I get my exercise, as would be the case for most of the other people with whom I walk. At the age of 70, exercise is important to keep me healthy. However, walking in the Green Wedge is not just a means of getting exercise. It also provides emotional nourishment. After spending three or four hours walking in the bush my spirits are lifted and I am able to deal with the worries of everyday living again.
being close to 'nature'. seeing native wildlife frequently. enjoying large gum trees and indigenous flora.
I love that the natural environment is part of my everyday living. It is place for peace and inspiration. There are many walks that I enjoy and have done now for decades. The opportunity to stumble across rare orchids makes the place unique.
The natural Bush

the amazing biodiversity

The uniqueness of the areas native flora and fauna. Tranquility, nature.

fresh air open spaces ie minimum land subdivisions. peace and quiet

fresh air open species in minimum land subdivisions. peace and quiet

- Social - The importance of having green spaces for improved mental health, families, the strong community spirit garnered through working together. We love where we live because of the trees. Our treed urban areas such as Eltham are our extension of the Green Wedge, and indigenous vegetation should be protected all over Nillumbik. Excellent environmental outcomes are also positively linked to improved human health and well-being, community, cultural heritage, recreation, tourism, business development.

- Economic - The value of our unique environment, of our beautiful landscapes, of such rich biodiversity – eg in attracting people for their health and well being, recreational pursuits, to markets, festivals, orienteering, musical and other artistic events, carbon emission offsets. Reject the opening of the region to major commerce. I prefer to shop locally, and to support locally made and distributed food and products. The Green Wedge currently attracts huge biodiversity grants - we need to retain these. The continuation of healthy productive agriculture relies on a vigorous, bio-diverse environment which delivers healthy soils, clean water and a stable climate.

Environment - Protect what I love about living here. "The Green Wedge Shire" acts as "The Lungs of Melbourne". We are a conservation shire with protection of the Green Wedge and biodiversity as our primary strategic focus. We need to IMPROVE and build on what we've got. Once it's gone, it's gone for ever. Stop the nibbling. Stop unnecessary vegetation clearing. Stop the urban sprawl. Stop the urbanisation, degradation and fragmentation of our natural environment. Arrest population growth and traffic congestion. Let's protect the Green Wedge, biodiversity, habitat for wildlife, our beautiful environment and landscapes. Improve our waterways. Biodiversity is but a dream unless we actually have a GWMP that stops its destruction. Let's learn to look after our environment better. Let's build environmentally sustainable communities. Let's create opportunities to teach our kids & grandkids to appreciate and protect our beautiful natural environment. Let's learn from the ancient aboriginal ways of managing the land to promote food production for all of biodiversity, and of reducing the fire risk. Let's lead the way in Nillumbik. Let's pass on a healthy environment to our kids, rather than a degraded one.

- Regulatory - Strengthen environmental protection. Protect the voiceless (animals). Protect against the threat of individuals working without environmental guidance. Let's not just talk about these; its important to take effective action. Protect against the issuing of retrospective permits which enable owners to flout existing rules. Change the existing planning schemes to enable enhancement and expansion of significant landscapes and animal corridors. Supporting our Green Wedge is supporting the Lungs of Melbourne. Improve our waste management. Require new developments to be ecologically sustainable; and promote environmental sustainability in whatever we do. Rather than slash and burn, encourage an environmentally sensitive approach to managing our bushfire risk. Landownership involves rights as well as responsibilities. The Green Wedge is our collective responsibility - for all of Melbourne, for the future of our kids, and their kids, and theirs.

The Green Wedge is a community and collective responsibility; don't destroy for the sake of individual landowners' greed to accumulate profits..

- Photos/FaceBook screen shots/etc
 - o Of our beautiful landscapes.
 - o Of our unique flora.
 - o Of our beautiful wildlife (alive and dead – eg. to show the destruction to habitat loss that increased traffic causes).

<p>Emphasise the importance of regulation to keep them safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Before and after pictures of areas that have already been lost. • Art work/ music/creativity inspired by our unique environment. <p>Please take action - for our Green Wedge - for our natural environment.</p>
It is a beautiful area that provides a welcome rest from Melbourne's urban energy.
I have lived and worked in Nillumbik for more than 20years. I am privileged to own a bush block protected under a covenant which is managed for conservation. I have learned and continue to learn a great deal about the fauna and flora in Nillumbik. While I love living here, I am concerned about the future of Nillumbik's green wedge.
Essential for the city's health, both in 'getting away from busy city life' and converting carbon dioxide to oxygen
Relative quiet , rural feel of the townships and a closeness to natural bushland .
The quiet rural tranquility and scenery.
Fresh air, trees, natural bushland with lots of birdlife, native animals. Space to bring up kids in contact with nature. We love living in a community of sensible, down to earth people who know the value of these things. Who are not afraid to get their hands dirty, chop wood for the fire, grow food and have good wholesome fun helping each other. Where kids can meet lifelong friends from kindergarten on, and share memories.
Having horses, space, trees, land
born and raised in the local community love the rural feel but having amenities still so close
The semi-rural environment and up until recently the lack of Town House / Apartment Development
Moved from Fitzroy to Eltham 42+ years ago because it was open not high density, unfortunately that's rapidly changing and not as green as it was
Wide open spaces for myself and kids to explore/play.
Environment - Flora & Fauna
I have loved my past 26 years of living in Nillumbik's Green wedge but unfortunately progress has almost ruined what was an idyllic lifestyle, we now have major traffic issues, our views across the natural landscape, rubbish on the roadside etc etc all to do with the creation of vast housing estates which is an inevitable out come that we always knew would happen. I believe the green wedge needs a complete overhaul and re-think and even to be partly dismantled in a planned way.
We are the "lungs of Melbourne" and we need to keep all our trees and indigenous plants
The trees, the smells, the abundance of native animals and the lack of obvious human habitation.
Bush
native vegetation and fauna
The fact that it is still green and not overdeveloped with units and estates everywhere.
I live in Nillumbik. I love the space, native flora and fauna, the river. It is unique.
Fresh air, tree canopy beauty, beautiful landscapes, rich biodiversity, bush-walking, community connectedness, indigenous vegetation and beautiful natural environment.
Living close to nature/wildlife. Being able to come home from work of an evening and escape the hustle and bustle of the CBD.
Being closer to nature. Surrounded by trees. Not too close to neighbours and hemmed in by fences and asphalt. There is also a nice community atmosphere that you don't get in built-up areas.
Not much anymore. Since I moved here in 1968 it has become rather yuppified. The North Riding residents lost any voice with the gerymander at amalgamation in the 80's. Outsiders run the Shire. Cyclists block the roads. There's no public transport or postal delivery in the forgotten outposts such as St Andrews (not that there ever was - but one might expect it in

2018, only an hour from the GPO (oh, that's gone too, hasn't it).
I like the trees, open spaces and low density housing.
Its not just suburb after suburb. It has a unique character.
To experience native Australian bush land. The opportunity to live in it and interact with the land as our forefathers and historical ancestors did. To participate in its preservation.
I find this area vital to my sense of well being. I visit this area frequently for walking in and generally visiting. I love the natural feature so close to my home a wonderful asset.
Bushland environment without houses close together.
Fresh air and being surrounded by greenery.
Nillumbik's Green Wedge is heaven on earth. The fresh air, trees, native plants and animals all make it the best place to live. I cannot believe my luck that I live in such a wonderful place.
I moved here 25years ago from a suburban beach area. What I immediately fell in love with was the peaceful green treed environment. I'm not a fan of looking at the once green hills now mowed down & new housing estates being built. Unfortunately it changes the feel of the area. Sad ☹️
I love that we are working towards living full lives in this area. Everyone has the right to enjoy their way of life and no one should dictate or try and manipulate councils for their own tunnel visioned ideas
I like that I can live as close as possible to nature. I like to live as close as I possibly can away from the urban sprawl. I like to see as many native indigenous species as possible, and I care for them as much as I can.
The environment, semi-rural feel, community, arts, festivals, schools.
The broad open space. The wildlife. The native vegetation. The environment
Green spaces, nature
Attractive rolling rural landscapes. Opportunities for walking on country trails. Clean air
The natural environment (plants and animals)
It is an enormous privilege to be able to live here, but also a great responsibility to maintain it for the greater good of Melbourne and future generations. The foresight of Premier Hamer in designating the Green Wedge has stood the test of time and we should honour his legacy.
Its peacefulness
I love the vegetation, especially the tall, native trees, the parks and "bush" feeling - with few high-rise buildings. I like the fact that Eltham is not a "retail hub", e.g. like Greensborough, and so it retains a village-like vista and feel to it. It's very relaxing walking through the Eltham shopping precinct, the walking tracks and even the local streets.
I love the landscape of our shire, every road has a different out look and the mix of farming and bushland makes it so unique. More importantly the people of Nillumbik are warm friendly and love the Community spirit as much as I do.
The open,rural space that is so close to the edge of Eltham. The way it breaks the outward spread of suburbia. The lovely ope, rural vistas that appear as you drive out through Kangaroo Ground and beyond towards St Andrews.
I am a keen cyclist, and riding through the unspoiled parts of the Nillumbik green wedge is a year round pleasure, and enables activities which enhance my physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health.
The quiet, no noise pollution. The bird life. Open spaces. Clean air. Peace.
Open space access, limits to building construction and density, bushland
Living in Nillumbik's Green Wedge allows me to care about the environment personally while being able to have a rural lifestyle with family and livestock mixed with native animals working in unity. I love that I can use the trails around the area especially with horse riding in

the area.
I live in the Green Wedge by choice - I like being surrounded by trees and wildlife and the quietness of not having neighbours too close to my house. When I arrive home from my job in the city I can feel relaxed. I know my neighbours and we have a great sense of community from our shared love of the natural environment.
We live here and we love the solitude, the lack of development, the opportunity to have animals, own bush and pasture and do our own thing. We love being part of a tight knit old fashioned community rather than a suburb.
Green areas. Proximity to city. Public transport.
The green pockets of land that allow shortcuts for people to walk around the area without needing to walk along busy roads. Looking around most areas and not seeing the houses. The wildlife that is living in the area. Having access to bike paths and walking trails reducing the need for many to use their cars
I like the bush feel the trees and open spaces
As a member of Diamond Valley Bushwalking Club I understand the importance of preserving bushland for the public to enjoy. Walking is a gentle exercise that most people can participate in and it should be preserved for this purpose. It is also critical to preserve habitat for flora and fauna.
I live in the Green Wedge because I love the peace and quiet, the regular contact with many different types of native animals and birds and the green space around us. I work from home one day each week and I could not do that in an environment where there was nothing inspiring and lots of noise. I usually don't venture too far from home when I socialise. I try to support local businesses and regularly visit our local wineries, markets and festivals.
The tree canopy and vegetated road verges as well as the many opportunities to walk in natural bush environments.
It is a way to reconnect with nature. Waking up to the sound of birds and taking my little 1 1/2 year old boy out to the 'country-side' is absolutely priceless and was a major reason for us to buy our property out here.
The trees, the non-development of many areas, the clean air you can breathe, how good your wash smells when you bring it in off the line, the lack of kerbs and that we still have some dirt roads around us, the bike and walking tracks are FABULOUS, the 'sleepish town feel' - go live in Brunswick if you want development and no trees, the fact we stopped the sale of public open space the Mayor thought was his, the Eltham market, 3 grocery stores (no mre please), the Sunday market, the library, there are so many things to love in Eltham. Do NOT wreck it with overdevelopment!!!! It has heritage and roots and you will be in office for 3 years if you are lucky so do not stuff it up!!!
Lower density living, access to parklands, walking trails, bushland etc, more visual and aural interaction with wildlife, cleaner air
The wildlife, air quality and community.
Quiet "rural" type atmosphere. The balance of native bushland and open pasture.
fresh air, horses,community events like pony clubs and adult riding clubs, rural peace and quiet,markets, a real community of people willing to help each other. like traditional country towns
The natural environment in Nillumbik's Green Wedge is richly diverse, unique in its accessibility to the residents of Australia's second largest city and precious. I treasure our environment, not just for its own sake, but for the joy and comfort that my community and I obtain from living responsibly in its midst.
the peacefulness of the bush, seeing the native animals, the vegetation, not being able to see neighbours, the sense of community, having a food forest, veggie garden and farm animals
I have lived in the Green wedge now for 38 years and have been happy with the existing

management of the environment, so long as overzealous green restrictions are not put upon us by green groups who don't live here, or by others who do live here but have a narrow view of what that entails.
Trees, flora, fauna, birds, insects, waterways, access via reserves so we don't need to walk along mayor roads, like minded people living in this area.
Rural atmosphere, canopy of trees, wildlife.
The indigenous bush.
It's not flat: rolling hills are more attractive than the bald flatlands to the west. People are more approachable than they are in the city.
We've lived in Wattle Glen for over 35 years, raising children and sharing this area with our grand children. We love that Wattle Glen has in the majority has maintained its semi rural flavor. We love that and never want it to change. We see Wattle Glen as the gateway to the Yarra Valley and should remain the buffer from over development. This area is A wonderful break from built up landscape. Areas designated green wedge save our fauna and flora, offer a healthy environment for families and are the heart and lungs of our region.
I believe the attraction of the Nillumbik's Green Wedge is definately the gree, the trees, the wildlife and the open spaces. This is what people travel from the inner suburbs and city to see and feel.
the variety of landscapes. The areas of natural bushland with little to no development. The variety of wildlife. The small gravel roads to ride my bike on. The walking trails. The rivers and creeks that flow through it. Small contained towns like Panton Hill, ST Andrews and Kangaroo Ground.
The community of people. This is very rare in Melbourne. The environment which is very unique and special, with many species now found only in Nillumbik. The emptiness which means it provides a place to escape the busy roads and crowds of Melbourne
The environment, the air, the flora, the fauna, the community, the small shops, the sense of country and unmade roads (even though they're a hassle to maintain), the artistic community, horse riding and riding trails: it's my life and love.
Aesthetically I choose to live in the Green Wedge because the community here supports the values I hold. It has been a wonderful place to work and raise a family.
The beauty and lack of development.
Open spaces. Clean air. Great small towns and communities with access to services nearby Providing amenity to greater Melbourne. Great lifestyle. Proximity and interaction with remaining agriculture and horticulture
I like living in the green wedge because the natural environment has been retained wherever possible. I wake up to the kookaburras laughing most mornings and there are other native birds about. This is important to me.
Room to move, fresh air and sense of peace and the abundant wildlife
Coming home to The bush, the birds, the clear night skies commutable to the city when need be.
I like living in it (I live in North Warrandyte right next to the state forest). I love living here. We are close to nature and we have the privilege of regularly seeing: orchids, rare plants, wildlife: wombats, wallabies, roos, echidnas, snakes, lizards. It is a wonderful place for a child to grow up. It is inspiring for an artist.
The best place in the world.
I love living in Wattle Glen because of the natural environment of which some is still intact, although the urban sprawl with out of control development is fast encroaching. The wildlife, biodiversity of plants, creatures, canopy means that in a world that is fast succumbing to the effects of climate change this corner has a possible chance of resisting the onslaught. It is considered the 'Green Wedge' and has vital legislation in place to protect it, however some consider themselves above the law and

their ignorance of the laws in place for protection of this and their disdain of environmental experts, needs closer scrutiny. We are all in this together to protect for future generations what is still left.
A Beautiful environment, quiet, peaceful but still close to Melbourne CBD
I like the village atmosphere of Hurstbridge
I am a cyclist and I love to be able to get on my bike and ride through rolling hills and bush on quiet roads. I love being at one with nature. I love being able to look out my window or walk out my house and immediately be with nature.
The many natural aspects. The landscape as a whole. Vegetation, hills, gullies and creek and river systems. As a species suffering from "nature deficit disorder" these landscapes are critical for our health and well being in a rapidly urbanizing world.
I find these questions very 'leading' as most presume we are happy living with the restrictions of green wedge legislation. We have always lived in what was Diamond Valley Shire area and were forced into the restrictive GW at amalgamation, against the majority vote of DV residents. To best manage Nillumbik's GW is to allow landowners to manage their properties with as few restrictions as possible. Small acreage farming is not viable. Should be 1-2-4-8ha lots, with dwelling permitted.
Larger blocks, but at present these I believe are larger than needed to retain the greenery and lifestyle that is wanted by most within this area. Our family has had this wedge imposed upon us and I believe that modifications would not be out of place.
location to CBD
The semi rural community not too dense a population
The trees!!! I feel so privileged to live where I do. Every time I leave and drive through urban sprawl I am reminded of this.
Space, trees, natural environment, real people.
I love the trees and open space and the wildlife that lives amongst our beautiful Green Wedge. The fresh air that open space provides me and makes me feel relaxed and healthy.
The trees , large blocks ,natural landscapes, uncommercialized aspect and undeveloped nature of the area
Love living where there is space and trees. Can plant trees and own animals, visit the dam. Don't like having neighbours close by. Can enjoy the wildlife and native plants. No urban noises to deal with. Peaceful
A breath of fresh air
I love everything about living and working in the green wedge (our business is located in it), and I rarely leave it except if I have to for work purposes.
I live in a beautiful community in Nillumbik. Our spirit, welfare and health benefit from the privilege of living in a natural environment of breathtaking biodiversity, featuring distinctive plants and animals in their natural habitats. We have a heritage that must be preserved and enhanced in the face of population pressures. Past councils have worked hard for this outcome and we trust that the current council has gained sensitivity to the values and threats, both obvious to us.
Natural beauty, lots of wildlife, green open spaces. Sense of peace and serenity. Lots of trees, indigenous vegetation .Positive natural environment for mind ,body and spirit.
We have lived in the Bend of Islands for 40 years and have enjoyed the natural environment and our involvement in learning about it and conserving and protecting it.
Sense of community. Living in Wattle Glen we have the feel of living in a small country town.
I love living in Yarrambat. I moved here to have my horses with me. I have loved riding around the area and enjoyed seeing all the wildlife as we ride and let the stress of the day melt away.
I have spent nearly sixty years in Nillumbik, it has provided the most wonderful experience

to grow up in, to farm, to run a business and to immerse yourself in the beauty of the area, the magnificent rolling hills and bushland with its bounty of wildlife and flora and of course the incredible diversity of people who have made Nillumbik home. I travel across Australia and around the world visiting many beautiful places but none exhibit the bounty that is Nillumbik.
Rural and community feel
The natural bush environment lends a distinct character to the Green Wedge. It's wonderful for my family to be able to live amongst the wildlife. It's equally wonderful to be able to walk or ride to the shops, on tree-lined paths.
Being able to safely ride my horse
The broader picture is not just about my life in Eltham but about how this area supports agriculture, water storage and conservation of land for Melbourne.
It preserves biodiversity and has wonderful fauna and flora, particularly in bushland areas. The agricultural areas provide a sense of open space and respite from the urban sprawl. It is very satisfying to know that these protected areas are indeed the "lungs" of Melbourne, and provide city dwellers with readily accessible rural experiences
It is peaceful but not remote, and a lot of the time we avoid a lot of the issues some of the outer suburbs have. Crime etc.
Family has owned property in the Green wedge for 3 generations. We are very fortunate and appreciate where we live, and worked hard to be able to afford the property. We love living in the area.
The open parks and the bike / walking track from Diamond Creek to Eltham and beyond, I can just walk from home along these open spaces and feel safe
I love living in the green wedge. I love the space we have compared to other suburbs of Melbourne. I love that there is bush everywhere. I love that we have open green spaces for us to see, walk through and live near. I love being part of the lungs of Melbourne. The community is amazing, the passion for our area is real. I work in the city and when I come home i feel a sense of relief and joy that i live in this beautiful place.
All the floor and fauna
Open space. Wildlife . Recreational tracks
Nillumbik is full of two wonderful things - A fantastic natural biodiversity and beautiful unique people. Fantastic natural biodiversity. I work in the environmental field in many ecosystems in Melbourne. I can safely say that Nillumbik's wildlife biodiversity is up there with the best of other shires and rivals many other state and national parks. Examples include a range of orchids with many being the biggest populations in Melbourne including - Rosella spider orchids and White-finger spider orchid. An amazing array of unique mammals including – echidnas, phascogales, sugar gliders, squirrel gliders, dunnarts and wallabies. Additionally, the indigenous bird diversity found in Nillumbik is unbelievable. Many of Australia's most wonderful birds are found in the shire including – golden whistlers, pardalotes, rose and flame robins, Wedgetail eagles, sittellas, and fantail cuckoos. Not only are these birds fantastic they are also regularly heard and sighted. In other words, Nillumbik shire provides fantastic ecosystems for these birds to thrive. Beautiful unique people I continually marvel at the brilliant nature and skill level of people that have lived and created this wonderful community. Most of the people I meet have moved to this shire because the beautiful Redbox forests are so inspiring for their passions (art, environmental studies, woodwork, design) and/or for their soul. If environmental protections are not put in place to preserve this unique indigenous environment I am afraid we will lose the diversity of fantastic people in this community.
Community Environment Living on land Outdoor trails
I'm being able to care, environmentally, for an area which is vitally important to Melbourne's 'livability' in terms of the 'lungs of Melbourne' concept.
It's a very peaceful and not crowded and improves mental health

Low density, country lifestyle with the convenience of still being close to the city amenities, transport , airports. Friendly and engaged community, sense of sanctuary. Living amongst and observing daily incredibly diverse flora, fauna2
The natural environment
I have lived in the Green Wedge for 45 years. It was/is(?) a rural environment close to the city. I and my family have had a wonderful lifestyle while looking after the land on which we reside. It is hard work living here, but I would not swap it for anywhere else. It would be a shame if it is not protected from vermin (deer and rabbits) and even the amount of kangaroos. Also from the plant Kunzea.
The trees, the remnant vegetation, the echidnas that visit my research property and the orchids that grow on my property and nature strip. I belong to a walking group that walks in the bush land throughout Nillumbik - we are truly lucky to have such access to indigenous landscapes so close to our living environment. It will only remain if we look after it. Personally I am a Friend of Yarramie Reserve and I work to protect and enhance the remnant vegetation there and on my own piece of land near by.
Access to farms and horses
I live and work in the Green Wedge. What I love about it is the rural vistas and the significant areas of bushland, both public and private and roadside. I support genuine farmers who make a genuine living from the land and who farm responsibly.
I live in the Nillumbik Green Wedge. I love the: * rural, 'country' feel * mix of open pastured country with re-growth bush areas which creates a beautiful landscape * fresh air and peacefulness * small townships and hamlets * the ability to keep grazing animals on your property * shared, off-road recreational trails and linkages * access to local reserves, natural areas, Watsons Creek to Kinglake Nature Corridor, Kinglake National Park, the Yarra * local, boutique wineries, cafes, farm produce businesses, artists - small scale tourism * native flora and fauna * proximity to Melbourne while living in a rural, natural setting * lack of crowds
I love living very close to our very special Green Wedge because of the richness of flora and fauna and for its very precious biodiversity. I walk most days by the river and have so much gratitude for the surrounding beauty in all its forms of life
Green environment and protection from inappropriate development promulgated by the Liberal Party and Liberal Party aligned Nillumbik councillors.
Country atmosphere and wide open spaces
I love the sheer extend of greenery, the trees, bush & accompanying wildlife, which is unlike anywhere else so close to urban Melbourne. I like driving through the Green Wedge, coming around a bend or cresting a hill and seeing nothing but greenery, no buildings or infrastructure to interrupt the trees.
The views, the peace and quiet, the good mountain bike trails, old style general stores, wineries, the horse riding clubs, local adult riders competitions, good equine community in general.
I love the open spaces, fresh air, small community, peace and quite and fewer people and cars.
I live in Nilumbik because of it of the natural landscape and because there is limited new subdivisions and development. I like the fact that it doesnt NOT have a suburban feel. The next question 2] is ambiguous. I do not want to answer it and for my answer to be misread. My greatest worry is that the environmental values of the green wedge are being eroded by the current changes.
I love living closer to nature, the bush , the wildlife, and the low key living. There is also a great sense of community, with a strong local paper , choirs, community gardens, and artists trails
I love the scenery and driving and walking through the rolling hills.

Whats not to love, the bush, rolling pasture, the small communities. The ability to ride out on local bush trails as the rural roads are not so quite anymore. Mostly I love the rural feel. This comes about from keeping larger bush and pastured blocks. I feel the balance is about right we don't need more bush or more pasture or many more houses. new builds should be designed sympathetically to the environment. i.e bush blocks as little infrastructure as able, pastured properties to have the rural feel sheds stables, tanks, dams, cattle, horses, arenas.
Open spaces, farming the agricultural land.
I live and work here. I love That its green, peaceful, mostly abundant with natural native flora and fauna, I love the bush reserves to walk in - I use to love to ride my horse in them safely off the busy roads. I also love to see the horses in the paddocks. I love the community village atmosphere.
We enjoy living in the green wedge, the views, the scenery, the whole environment. We enjoy having some space and lack of noise other than natural sounds
My favourite thing about living in Nillumbik is that it is not the same as every other municipality despite the current councils attempts to destroy the character of the area by removing native tree and replacing them with introduced species and trying to make Eltham and Hurstbridge in to just another Fitzroy or Prahan, the locals are prepared to fight to keep our area special and without development.
The connection to the natural bushland, the wildlife, preserving the indigenous vegetation, fresh air, open spaces.
We are able to live close to the natural environment and the wildlife that lives there
The trees and bushland, the grassy open paddocks, the birdlife, the quiet streets and little traffic, large block/property sizes, the minimal commercial areas, the sense of community, the community and sporting groups.
Eltham has always been my home, and I feel very proud & privileged to say that. I love that is renowned for its tree-y - green ambience... I love that when you say to someone "I live in Eltham" that nature, trees, parks are the first thoughts about the suburb.
The connection to nature. Living close to amenities but concurrently feeling removed from busy-ness of city life. Opportunities to interact with nature (walking tracks, bird life, native animals).
I have lived here for 37 years & I still love the number of walks you can do that encompasses all manner of different settings. Just about every visitor we have says What a lovely part of the world.
It's an area known for its green canopy of trees, natural settings, wildlife and tranquility. Tell people you live in Nillumbik and they will respond with "Oh, that's lovely out there." We agree. Destroying the Green Wedge will have serious implications for the areas amenity and Melbourne's claim to be one of the worlds most liveable cities.
The proximity of country serenity. The beauty of the paddocks and native trees, the rollings hills.
I love that you have a bit of country and nature within 20 minutes of a supermarket
Extensive tree canopy. Smell of eucalyptus as the train trundles across the trestle bridge. Artist community. Sunday Farmer's Market,
The trees, the native vegetation, the open vistas and rolling hills without houses, the many native Reserves, the trees especially.
The fact that I'm surrounded by trees, birds and wildlife. I can feel the temperature difference in the summer between Eltham and less green suburbs because of our green canopy. In just 5 minutes I'm in a rural bush land setting with loads of walking riding and swimming options. I feel more calm working from home looking at the trees than the days when I battle the roads to go into the office in Bundoora.
The topography and vegetation together provide a great environment to live in. approaching Eltham from Doncaster you can see the stark difference in the areas. The urban areas as

well as the non urban areas are important and different to the parts of the outer metro fringe.
Abundance of native flora and fauna with reasonable access (private transport) to rest of Melbourne metropol.
space, green views, space for flora and fauna, limited traffic, responsible planning laws to keep things green and natural. That it is not like Doncaster or Donvale which is green but no longer a natural environment because humans have infiltrated every corner. I like that the green wedge is not necessarily for humans, but for other living creatures including plants and animals.
That nature is still present. The Diamond Creek (which needs to be cleaned of trash), is lovely in winter post-rain.
I love living in Nillumbik's Green Wedge for the open space, beautiful vistas and landscape values and the bush and wildlife. I love the trees, especially the big old ones which are homes for the wildlife and the indigenous vegetation and believe it should be protected as the lungs for Melbourne and for the threatened wildlife.
The quiet and the bush surrounding.
'- Lifestyle (Hobby Farm) - Bush, biodiversity, flora and fauna - Rural edge but close to city for sport, arts, culture, medical services - Vistas - Most days, walking dogs through Panton Hill bush reserves
Being part of the bush and only taking 5 mins to feel like you are out in the middle of nowhere.
There is an excellent quality of life through living in the Green Wedge. I feel I have space to enjoy and clean air to breath. Also the "noise" is of nature, not man-made noises. I also feel I am close enough to people but not too close. It is absolutely essential that the Green Wedge is protected from those who would turn it into suburbs like the majority of areas around Melbourne.
'- Open space - Horse riding - Agriculture
I live close to Eltham central which is very convenient walking to shops, transport etc., and a delight to see and hear the birds and wonderful trees along the way.
As a long time resident of the Green Wedge I love the rural atmosphere that typifies the area. The mix of open farmland, bush reserves, trails and parks make a harmonious whole that is enjoyed by the community. An enthusiastic bike rider, both mountain and road, I feel that we are blessed with unique riding opportunities on our doorstep. Both my wife and daughter are passionate about their horse riding and enjoy the vast network of trails that are in the area and the local adult riding facilities. We are doubly blessed, living on 20 acres allowing us to graze the horses on our property. We enjoy the community atmosphere of the small townships and hamlets, particularly Hurstbridge. We also enjoy the small scale tourism of the local area often frequenting the boutique wineries, cafes and farm produce stores. Finally, proximity to Melbourne whilst living in a rural, natural setting are highly valued by us.
The green environment. No apartments. The wildlife, community spirit. Its unique 23km out of the city centre
The trees, peace, animals
Wide open spaces, both to use and to see. Large blocks, main roads with large blocks and farms.
Nillumbik's Green Wedge is unique amongst all Green Wedge areas in Victoria. As a municipality that is predominantly Green Wedge we are and have been called 'the lungs of Melbourne'. As a non growth municipality our role is to provide opportunities for some population growth and appropriately designed and considered development in our townships and urban areas. People come to live here because of our tree canopy and open space and the close proximity to rural areas on the edge of Melbourne.
The trees, the eagles, the waterways, the dirt roads, the colours
passive recreation by way of bushland. leafy streets & gardens. birdlife. bike & walking

paths. esp those walking paths that cut through & link streets that would otherwise be unconnected. mud brick buildings & other interesting architecture.
The trees and wildlife.
I enjoy the diversity and enhanced flora and fauna of the Green Wedge and want to see it preserved and enhanced. Hope this review strengthens the Green wedge and maintains the current restrictions. Like the strength of community and shared values within the green wedge
The space, the greenness and the feeling of being in the country.
Treed environment, local reserves and linear parkland. Architecture of mud brick homes and Montsalvat.
LIVING IN THE GREEN WEDGE IS A PRIVILEGE AND SHOULD BE PROTECTED AT ALL COSTS
Its lovely green, relaxed, friendly and lay back environment. Being able to see animals and bushland. The sweet smells in the morning, The local cafe's and market, The close proximity to the Yarra Valley. The peace and tranquillity - the mental health boost it gives me, my friends, neighbours and visitors.
I am privileged to live in part of the green wedge in Eltham. It provides my family with the opportunity to pursue their equine hobbies and for me to become more engaged with the natural environment. This means also the enjoyment of taking care of the land with weed and pest control both in paddocks and bush areas. I am privileged also to live only half an hours drive from my work in Northcote.
I like that it provides a wonderful contact with the natural environment as epitomized by Nillumbik's rural green wedge. It provides a much needed relief between the dense urban development of the Melbourne metropolitan area and the rural landscape that is characterized by the two land uses of conservation and soil based agriculture. I also like that Nillumbik is one of 17 municipalities of the periphery of the Melbourne metropolitan area that provides an almost continuous green belt around around Melbourne that contributes so significantly to our reputation as the world's most liveable cities.
I love the green which is everywhere. I love the natural bush that is part of the neighbourhood and the way the rivers and creeks are natural and allowed to be unimpeded. The horizon from my home shows the ranges and the green treed areas. I like knowing the green wedge adds positive gases to the environment. I like being able to walk in the natural environment and know the places are protected.
The bush feel of the suburb and the high density of trees. The open spaces and parklands following the river. Plus maintenance of large area of open space as Melbourne grows Eltham and Hurstbridge and smaller townships in the Nillumbik district have a characteristic peculiar to the district and whilst with Melbourne's increasing population some of this will be lost every effort should be made to keep the characteristic of the district and its relationship to the Green Wedge
I like the trees, I like being away from the city, where there is less pollution and cars, and busy freeways.
Space, the beautiful environment, community.
I love all the trees & the the wildlife they bring. The smell of the air is amazing - it gives me a sense of peace & calm whenever I am out walking my dog along the many pathways We live on a large block & I love to wake up to the sound of the birds. Sometimes we have a resident echidna come & visit
The Green Wedge has an abundance of old growth, mature native trees. Its has creeks that meander through the parks and properties. Its bird life and wild life is evident in back yards and surrounding nature reserves. Its ability to keep to a height limit on buildings thus providing access to beautiful views to be shared by a majority of residence.
Beauty of area, lovely areas to keep and ride horses.

Best of both worlds. We are close to beautiful open spaces but only less than one hour away from the exciting city area
<p>It provides a healthy environment in which to live, raise kids and extend to grandkids. This is about the clean air, natural beauty, protecting the remnant bush and natural ecosystems, general greenness, the sense of community and belonging, pride in the cultural heritage (natural, historical, koori, artistic), the sense of well-being which a natural environment can bring, the opportunities for outdoor activities (at home, in parks and in the bush) and the serenity and peace of mind this integrated wholeness brings.</p> <p>It offers the opportunity for kids to grow up enjoying, valuing, protecting and learning about nature. Our family has made the most of the bush environment, growing up swimming, picnicking, building cubbies and canoeing in & around the Yarra at various favourite, beautiful locations. Now the grandchildren enjoy it too.</p> <p>Living in this environment for 44 years has contributed to the good health (physical, mental, spiritual & emotional) of our whole family and is now enjoyed by our extended family.</p> <p>It embodies a community which looks after others, setting an example for our kids and grandkids. I enjoy the harmony with nature, the natural beauty of the environment, the diversity of the bush plants, insects, animals, birds, landscape, rural vistas, open spaces and riverside walks and I enjoy sharing this with family, neighbours and friends. Above all, I love the bush. I appreciate the way the Green Wedge merges into the rest of Nillumbik, with the tree canopies, numerous small local reserves, parks and general greenness throughout Nillumbik. I enjoy living in a community where so many people appreciate this wonderful environment and work hard to protect and enhance it for future generations.</p> <p>I value the excellent existing GWMP 2010 – 2025 and am really concerned that this “review” of the GWMP is not a review at all, but a replacement. Why?</p>
For what seems an ever expanding Melbourne it is vital the Green Wedge remains as untouched as possible for the interrelated life forms well being.
<p>I am happy to be part of the late Premier Rupert Hamer's forward thinking in creating the Green Wedges to be the lungs of Melbourne.</p> <p>I am happy that my property in K.G. allows native wildlife to have somewhere to exist now that development in S.Morang and Merda seems to be for the benefit of humans and little else.</p>
I love the trees and the environment and the wildlife. It is a wonderful community with many shared values and many of us live here because we value our environment.
Our rural setting and the ability improve our surroundings by planting trees and native grasses. Also the ability to have acreage and not have neighbours metres from our home
I love the green bush, paddocks, wildlife, trees, creek and all the natural environment. We live in a special part of Victoria and I would argue the most beautiful and authentic part of Melbourne. Being made up of smaller townships and communities provides residents with a real sense of connection, identity and belonging to where they live. This provides such a protective factor for health (including mental) and well-being.
The topography- hills and valleys.
The trees. The fact that within minutes of leaving home in Eltham you are in the bush. The fact that our Green Wedge is not covered with vineyards, golfcourses. The fact that our Green Wedge sustains many communities/individuals that value sustainability, living within the environment, not wanting to dominate, clear, build McMansions. The fact that we are protecting the biodiversity of flora and fauna. The fact that you can see a wombat by the river and kangaroos lying in the sun minutes from home. The mist between the hills on a winter's morning.
I love living on my property of five acres of bush, the wildlife, the space, the connection I feel and knowing that I am raising my children to have the same feelings and love for nature
I live in the Nillumbik's Green Wedge and chose to move there because I wanted to live in a place with abundant trees, wildlife and fresh(er) air. We deliberately chose a GW area because we knew that the GWs have particular protections that have been supported by

both major parties since the 70s, so we felt confident that we could plan for a future living in an area that would not be developed. I particularly thought Nillumbik would be an area in which the GW would be protected given the long history of environmental support within the area. I like the fact that I have a something of a custodial role in living here and that this comes with responsibility to others in Melbourne, even those who don't live within the GW or Nillumbik. I realise I have a duty to protect the native vegetation and wildlife and accept that this comes with some limitations regarding what I can do on my property.
Space around us and the ability to enjoy the countryside whilst being near to public transport.
peaceful relaxing and a joy to live in it I hope the council keeps it this way
Nature at its best: Wildlife – native Native vegetation Open Spaces Spectacular views Big sky Fresh and clean air A comfortable ambience Community spirit of like-minded people Bike tracks Dirt tracks Low population – density Ability to walk alone - no crowds
It's not like any other place. There is greenery, trees, animals, river, fresh air, room to move, community relationships. I live in this area because it is protected - I don't want it to become like every other area/suburb. I've been there done that. I moved here especially for nature, space, large blocks, no subdividing, no commercialisation - it is an oasis and very special.
Being surrounded by the natural environment, the parks, the waterways and the wildlife. I love looking over our natural tree canopy and being able to see greenery instead of roads and buildings. I think we have managed to integrate ourselves into this environment.
Plenty of bushland and wildlife
I love the treetop vistas, the quiet woodlands, the birdlife, and the beautiful plants. I enjoy exploring the tracks and pathways with friends, the unexpected experiences: butterflies rising up like a cloud from grassland as we walk through, the crackle of frost underfoot and its sparkle on grasses lit by morning sun in winter. It is very warming that many people feel the same way as I do about our wonderful Green Wedge, and appreciate the need to sustain and nurture it for future generations.
It provides proximity to high quality natural environment
it is pictures it is peaceful has a good community atmosphere a lovely place to live
The Laughing Waters Artist-in-Residence Program. Radical contemporary art and organisations, groups and artists from outside of the Shire coming to us. Complex ecologies left in-tact. Diversity & abundance of species. Mature trees. Walking Trails. Agricultural land being used wisely with minimal chemical use. Dirt Roads. Real Darkness at night.
It is a great thing to be so close to the beautiful open, clean green wedge. The wineries, farms and small towns are very special with great character and charm. It is a respite from the relentless development going on everywhere else in the metro area.
peace and quiet
I live in Eltham because of the trees; native animals and less development. However in the 16 years I have been here - I'm beginning to feel like I live in Reservoir. The sounds of chainsaws felling trees; over development and intrusion via extra traffic with no improvements to infrastructure are saddening.
I enjoy being able to take walks without having to dodge cars and listen to the hum of industrial activity.
Fresh air
the natural feel. Opportunities for passive recreation amongst the trees and alongside the creeks. Even the roadsides with their trees are lovely.
The trees
A lot of indigenous tree canopy even into the suburban areas.
I grew up in Eltham and after living and working OS when young we decided it was the best place to raise our family was back here.....space, freedom, connection to natural bushland and like minded community. I feel so fortunate to have lived here for so much of my life.

I have lived in Nillumbik in close proximity to Nillumbik's Green Wedge, all my life, and have always considered it to be Melbourne's lungs. I am a bushwalker and use the treks and trails in the public area of the Green Wedge.
It is pristine and untouched by development. This allows a wonderful encounter with so many native birds and mammals like Sugar Gliders etc. This place must be protected.
It has a rural atmosphere while still being within comparatively easy reach of urban amenities. The low population density makes a major contribution towards a relatively stress-free way of life.
The open green space, the indigenous trees, many species of birds, fauna and flora. I love the reserves set aside for wild plants and the excitement of finding orchids and other delicate flowering plants. I really appreciate the thought of the Green Wedge with its mixture of farmland and dedicated bush land reserves.
The environment, small community, the value to Melbourne particularly with growth this will be even more important for providing fresh air and habitat for animals
The obvious answers are the space, the air and the quite relative to other areas close to Melbourne. But also I like the way the people support all the old ideas of what the "Green Wedge" means - the environment for both us and the flora and fauna.
No high density housing developments - plenty of open spaces with wild life plus peace and quiet too.
The views of the hills and the open spaces. Larger house blocks with kids playing on their own properties.
We live in the Green Wedge, and spend every day grateful that the State Gov't had the good sense to protect this wedge - freedom from housing, traffic, noise and busyness. However, we want to encourage visitors to come to the Green Wedge - to breathe, slow down, be visually saturated with the beauty of the area, to walk on trails, to stay weekends, to visit the local cafes and wineries. We want to share what we have but to keep it protected as well.
The peace and quietness
Nillumbik is a great place to live. The urban fringe provides the interface of rural and urban. The key is a positive sense of community. I operate a business based in Nillumbik - a nice place to work but not great for business - most of our business growth is outside of Nillumbik
I love my views, the open spaces, wildlife and rural aspect, the magnificent trees and sense of community spirit that is so evident especially in the rural areas. Hurstbridge in particular is something really special even though I live in rural Doreen.
It is our Nillumbik communities' opportunity and living example to do our bit for the natural environment as part of the larger Melbourne responsibility.
Trees Country feel Community feel Open spaces Nature Large minimum (20 acre) blocks
With respect to Yan Yean the ability to live in a semi-rural setting immediately adjacent to a large population centre with access to services and public transport
Generally peaceful with some exceptions.
Retention of the bush look and feel. Cleaner air quality. Community feel. Peace and quiet.
The native trees and open spaces, bicycle tracks and walking areas through parkland rivers and streams which are kept clean for wildlife such as platypus, echidnas and birds.
The natural, environmental, peaceful spaces, not (over) developed, commercial infrastructure.
Living in the area with a good tree canopy, abundance of birdlife.
We love living in the rural part of Nillumbik, because of the space, the community and easy access to the city
We are privileged to be the custodians of a large bush block in the green wedge. We love our morning walks and the rural setting of the area.

Living in the Green Wedge presents a quality of life which I value ...the clean air, the beautiful Bush, the high quality natural environment with its precious biodiversity, peacefulness and respite from the mad rush of a growing city which we must stop from invading us.
I love the unique landscape we have been able to preserve, the fact that I can go walking in the bush just ten minutes from home, the native animals and birds, wildflowers, the fresh air and the wonderful feeling of calm and peace we are so lucky to have in our own environment.
I enjoy the green environment, the green diversity of plants and butterflies. I also enjoy using the small and medium sized businesses that are available in the shire.
I love the Green Wedge for its open spaces, trees and nature walks. I always feel peaceful when visiting.
Living close to extensive areas of high conservation value bushland is greatly appreciated. That these areas and the large number of species that live within them are protected through appropriate planning controls is of the greatest importance. This is particularly so for the many species that are at risk, such as the the Phascogale, Eltham Copper Butterfly, Goanna, Dunnart and other species. Much of this is documented in various publications including the NEROC report and recent reviews of the sites of significance in the Shire. It is essential that these documents be heeded and appropriate long term protection of this environment and species be locked in. I also greatly appreciate the rural - bushland mix of many parts of the green wedge, which results in beautiful landscapes, especially where the rural land is well managed. The human community that is drawn to the Green Wedge also tends to have a great appreciation for nature and I greatly appreciate working with these people to look after the land and nature. It leads to camaraderie and a wonderful sense of belonging. It is satisfying to know that this green wedge and the others around Melbourne are protected in the long term as for the sustainable existence of Melbourne and its people it is essential that the green wedges be maintained for environment, social and cultural reasons. The Urban Growth Boundary should be just that and never changed to ensure that whatever development occurs around Melbourne is sustainable.
Living in the relatively undisturbed bushland of the Bend of Islands, enjoying and providing for the native fauna and flora
I moved to Eltham only 3 years ago after finally finding my new home in a great location with surrounding green trees and the entertaining bird life. We cannot lose such a unique environment to over development of apartment complexes and removal of beautiful trees which contribute to clean air.
the bush, the wildlife, the protection of the environment, living in the Environmental Living Zone 😊
Open space character. Provisions of opportunities for recreation in a natural, healthy environment that is so essential for human health and well being. Enables biodiversity to continue to flourish. Provides habitat corridor between separate areas of native vegetation within the Green Wedge and adjoining areas. Provides ecological services including carbon storage and oxygenation of the atmosphere.
Living in the green Wedge with its trees & green space give me fresh low polluted air & gives me & Family good health
The natural indigenous environment
The rural and township aspect. The openness and freedom to move. The strong community values. The friendships that have developed through the community. The volunteerism. Being able to commute to the city in good time. Finding work within the community.
I have lived in Nillumbik for nearly 30 years and appreciate every day the beauty of its natural environment. The eucalypt canopy, the proximity to wild serene untouched stretches of the Yarra river, the abundant bird life and the ability to go from suburb to country in five

minutes.
I love that I live in Eltham, close to public transport and to suburban Melbourne, and only 30 mins drive from Carlton ... yet I am surrounded by trees - and only 5 mins drive from FARMLAND and other BUSH. And only 15 minutes WALK away from the river. The trees and the rural surroundings bring me peace.
The open space, the trees the open farming areas. I travel there regularly and thoroughly enjoy the experience
It provides nature on our doorsteps and enables future generations to gain respect for preserving the natural environment for the future
The rural atmosphere - space. The wildlife up close. Room for pets. The vistas..
The trees, the river, the sense of community
We enjoy living in Nillumbik because of the open spaces, and being able to live in a farming area that is relatively close to Melbourne.
A feeling of increased wellbeing and less anxiety due to leaving Melbourne and travelling into the Green Wedge with its open space and greenery.
I love living in the beautiful Christmas Hills area and enjoy the peacefulness and open spaces it has to offer. The trees and the wildlife that are also unique to this area.
Tranquility and peacefulness. Room to move around and support a happy healthy lifestyle.
The space, the trees, the rejuvenating power of the bush.
i love that the land sizes are not less than 20 acres where i live in Hurstbridge. Everyone is happy and friendly. There are lots of trees and green pasture
We love where we live, because of the natural environment and wildlife, the fresh air, and the peace and quiet.
The green wedge is a demonstration that it is possible to live amongst nature without the need to pave, construct, "develop" and shape every aspect of our surroundings. It is clear in studies that our health and wellbeing benefit from contact with nature. We have this here in the Green Wedge and so it is worth preserving and requires us to adapt ourselves to it a little. Development is now largely driven by the prospect of speculative financial gain, and so calls for it by individuals must be balanced with wider needs of the community. The majority of people live here because they like the space. They did not move here to engage in property development, so the majority's needs should prevail.
I live, work and engage with my community in Nillumbik's Green Wedge. For our businesses we are very close to our market for one and removed from the market for the second. This is where I grew up, married and raised my kids and now some of my grandchildren. We have been in the area for 6 generations and would like to think that the foundations laid by previous generations can be built on by the current and future generations. My life has been lived in my town and a lot of my family, friends and community groups are here. I have contributed to many groups and still do. I am deeply attached to my land and care for it to the best of my ability. This is why I like living in Nillumbik's Green Wedge.
I love the treed environment contributed to by most building blocks having mature trees. Many vistas across the hills in Eltham look like a forest virtually concealing the house beneath. Some of the treed streetscapes are fantastic.
I like living and working in the Green Wedge because there are lots of trees and population density is limited. When I visit Whittlesea shire (across the road from my children's school) I am shocked by the lack of trees and houses that are jam packed together - add to this the traffic congestion caused the extra population and I am so glad I live in Nillumbik.
The sense of open space, natural environment, the proximity of the Green Wedge to the fringe of suburbia, the wonderful views and the opportunity to observe wildlife and many layers of vegetation.
Bush surroundings, ambience, but not too far from city. River, trees, undeveloped area
I like that I live within the environment. That the way I built my home was to blend in with the

environment rather than remove the environment to build. That natural corridors are present for the animals that have always lived here. The bird life is precious and the trees are the reason they are so diverse and can survive. As soon as you move out of the green wedge these animals and birds are no longer present, it is very significant. It proves that you can live in areas that are close to town yet without the need to change the natural system.
I love the space, quiet, indigenous vegetation, native bird calls and colours, passing wildlife and wide skies. I love that there is a sense of community, that shopkeepers know my name. I love that most people are decent and caring. There is that same sense of freedom that I remember from holidaying with my relatives in Yea when I was a child.
The greenness! The space. I like the keen adherence to environmental issues (though we can always do more!!)
Clean air, space, lovely views, village life, animals and birds
Living in the Green Wedge is healing for me. Once I smell the trees, see the wallabies and hear the quiet, I breathe more deeply and leave the city behind.
I have the opportunity to put my money where my mouth is in terms of conserving the natural environment and reversing some of the major alienation and decline in the environment that has taken place throughout Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and indeed the world. The practical outcome of my experience here is that I have, though the use of the Conservation Covenant system been able to conserve several nationally-listed rare/threatened or endangered species, most notably: Caladenia rosella - Rosella Spider Orchid - 250 plant remaining in the world Pterostylis smaragdina (Emerald Lip Leafy Greenhood) - 1,200 left in the wild and Phascogale tapoatafa - Brush-tailed Phascogale - nationally threatened. Additionally, in conjunction with my greater neighbourhood, we have worked collectively to manage and enhance the conservation values of our area 'Dunmoochin' and indeed started in 1992 the very first Landcare Group dedicated to the conservation of nature. I have used the experiences I have gained from living in Nillumbik to inform my work as a teacher and researcher in ecology and environmental management at both the University level and in the wider community. The fact that I live in the area that I manage is key to my deep knowledge and understanding of the local area.
The bush feel, and look, and the community spirit that creates
The opportunity and challenge of caring for and maintaining green spaces for future generations as Melbourne's urban sprawl takes over more and more of the environment
The green wedge is a great place to live as it is semi-rural. It's important to have the country side so accessible to people in the city. Large size properties allow small size farms to produce quality local products.
That it still exists and that someone had the foresight to establish Green Wedges across Melbourne's outskirts. More immediately it is the fresher air, flora and fauna and lack of development that appeals at so many levels.
I love being surrounded by the natural environment, though it is sad to watch its steady degradation and the loss of habitat and biodiversity. Given that Nillumbik's green wedge is focussed on conservation of the natural environment and continuing sustainable agriculture this is a serious failure of the community, Council and the State government. The low population density is also a very good thing because it makes the achievement of worthwhile conservation goals possible.
We like living on our property as a hobby farm working with horses and dogs plus the other native wildlife like kangaroos, echidnas and birds that wander through. We have lived here for over 60 years so have seen many changes. Working in the area is enjoyable with mostly like-minded people with similar interests.
Open space, sense of freedom, clean air, native flora and fauna.
Family. Trees. Community. Trees. Wellbeing ie trees! Landscape ie trees! Tourism ie trees!

Strongly object to new laws when building/renovating of removing trees within 10 meters of the dwelling. Magnificent native specimens some over 100 yrs old cut down....SHAME!!
Have lived in the Nillumbik Green Wedge for over thirty years. Live on a normal sized residential block adjacent to the trail. Raised children who road the trails with us safely and as a family gained respect for our environment. Feel priviledged to live in the area. The Green Wedge has provided us with a peaceful living environment.The old saying "it is always good to come home"
The fresh air, connection with land, flora and fauna, palpable presence of Wurundjeri and so much more
I love the fact that the Green Wedge imparts an environmentally conscious ethos to the whole of Nillumbik. We appreciate the fact that it we live only minutes from the green areas and the soothing, inspiring effect it has on our busy lives. The tentacles the wedge extends into the more settled areas, along our creeks and reserves, and enable us to encounter wonderful indigenous wildlife in our own suburban neighborhoods. (We would never have visits from our neighborhood echidna if we did not have these wildlife corridors and connections to a truly natural area. Any time we drive or walk into the Green Wedge areas of our shire, we comment on how wonderful it is to see areas which have not been compromised by development, and which have the capacity to refresh our spirits. Our walking tracks enable us to access some of these areas and to really enjoy the contact with nature and wildlife.
Nothing
I like that there is green space but I worry its receding; I like when planning is effective and leaves open spaces, natural vegetation and corridors for wildlife. I like when neighbourhood character and streetscapes are maintained, disallowing disparate, crowded and overbearing development. I value the multiuse public open spaces which retain vegetation and street/area/suburb character. I like that Nillumbik comes from a legacy of responsible care of the environment, retention of trees, retention of open space, and natural material useage.
The fact that it is a Green Wedge Council and sub division is restricted and residential housing kept to a minimum. It enables us to operate a farming business and enjoy the open spaces of the area while at the same time witness the negative impact of suburbia on our doorstep.
Fresh air, bird song, open spaces, great views, greenery, undulating landcapes, sparse population density.
Even though I live in Eltham (Nillumbik) with all the shops, Leisure Centre, Health Services I need I have an acre with a bush setting as do my neighbours. This is very special and always is admired by visitors. Further I can drive (a short drive) to may bush walks, find a car park easily and fill my lungs with fresh air. The Green Wedge is the "lungs of Victoria". Scientists have noted that trees absorb carbon dioxide preventing levels becoming harmful to all forms of life.The natural environment provides the natural habitat that is needed by native animals. We already have endangered species in our shire (eg: possums) Over the years we have had artists colonies (eg: Cottles Bridge) that have produced eminent painters (Clifton Pugh) and potters (Alma Shanahan) The freedom of one's environment without the constraints of suburban life enriches us all and an alternative lifestyle.
I live in the Green Wedge and enjoy the clean air and the freshness of the entire area. The close proximity to the city, Yarra Valley and access to regional area are of great benefit.
I'm really happy to live in this Nillumbik's since 2007. The fresh air, the landscape, the nature country feeling of Nillumbik is just what I want. Please keep this green untouched. I understand that every council has the pressure of the population's growing. But we do need keep the ballance of the growing and the green.
It's a very picturesque district, offering bush close by, agriculture, some modest tourism, caring communities - all within close proximity of Melbourne.
The beauty of the natural landscape

The extraordinary diversity of flora (in particular) and fauna. Nillumbik is a region having very high diversity of flora not only nationally, but also internationally. It is a biodiversity hotspot. The extraordinary efforts of the Nillumbik community both historically and currently to conserve the unique flora and fauna of Nillumbik. the dedication is beyond measure. the community campaign to save the Eltham Copper Butterfly is a wonderful example of a successful community campaign to save a species. It is renowned internationally.

I objected to Green Wedge status being applied to private land and believe it should only have been applied to public land. Instead, public land was sold off for housing and the Nillumbik green wedge was "locked up" by some previous dysfunctional Councils and bureaucrats. Rights we had at the time of purchase were retrospectively removed and regulatory controls increasingly applied.

We brought our land in 1955 - long before the huge amendments of 1971 which were eventually approved. The landowners were never given formal notification of these amendments nor were they compensated.

Arbitrary bureaucratic decisions affecting peoples lives and livelihoods were made based on a mere "concept" whilst at the same time, fiscal responsibility for the consequences caused to the private landholder were ignored. At one stage the then Nillumbik Council wanted to put us in a 40ha. zone. The concept of the 'green wedge' is one which is heavily promoted by Nillumbik Shire Council. The concept of a green wedge is not a concept recognised by the SPPF (DOI Submission to Panel & Advisory Committee - NFNPS 16 Feb 1999).

I commend the current Council for conducting this much needed review because hopefully some trust in the processes and fairness and can be restored for long term landowners.

I have lived in Nillumbik for over 70 years - firstly at Plenty, then Hurstbridge and for the last 58 years in Diamond Creek. I have always enjoyed the area and its people, over my time here I have seen many changes, for example - the switching on in 1956 of electricity in Hurstbridge and surrounding areas. Followed by sewerage, gas and water.

Since the formation of Nillumbik Shire I feel that the area has been held back by various green councils and their councillors. Introducing various overlays and restrictions on land owners without consultation with the public. Growth has been stifled. Some examples that come to mind are - the refusal of a service station application for Hurstbridge, also a car wash on land adjacent to the United service station in Main Road, Eltham.

'Bed and Breakfasts' have been limited to three (3) overnight guests. A horse riding academy applicant has also been limited to three (3) guests overnight owing to reliance on septic tanks. I believe Monsalvat in Eltham relies on septic tanks, but is still able to hold jazz festivals, weddings and funerals as well as other commercial enterprises.

In my opinion I believe the current mayor, councillors and council staff are performing their duties far better than many of the past councils have.

This question wrongly assumes landowners purchased their properties in the knowledge that Nillumbik was a green wedge shire. Not so. My husband and his brother have owned our property long before private property was conceptually considered as green wedge - in fact, long before Nillumbik even existed. Initially we were under Heidelberg Council, then Diamond Valley Council and a very small part was Eltham Shire. Our families had lovely times here, the kids sliding up & down the hill on a piece of Masonite, riding billy carts, gathering sticks for our fire, raking leaves for when we could burn off, cooking potatoes in the coals, riding ponies, feeding the chooks, having family bbq's, the Easter egg hunts and so on. Many happy memories. Then the rot began to set in with some dysfunctional Councils but at that time, because we were busy working and raising our family, the impact of what was done in Parliament didn't immediately register. I will always resent the manner in which the 'green wedge' concept was forced upon us in 1971. Private land was arbitrarily appropriated by the regulatory taking of land from its legitimate owners for the public benefit, without formal notification and without compensation for loss of (then) existing rights and legitimate expectations for long term owners. Nor did it end there. Council is now going to compulsorily acquire some of our land across two separate titles for the Diamond Creek - Hurstbridge trail extension - so again, the compulsory taking of land for the public benefit.

We will get some compensation this time but no amount of monetary compensation can make up for what we lose.

Lack of light and noise pollution.

The friendship and helpfulness of neighbours and fellow landowners many who have lived here for a long time. The lack of congestion on the roads and when shopping outside of peak times. The peace and privacy afforded by living outside an urban area.

Owning & living on 20 acres on the urban fringe offers the best of both worlds.

A) Living on a rural block enjoying privacy, my large garden and amenities that I have built and created over the past 36 years.

B) Enjoyment in engagement with family & friends that live nearby, sharing our home & amenities with those close to us.

C) A large array of infrastructure on our doorstep e.g. transport, schools, health services, sporting opportunities, community groups, shops & community centres. All within 1km, some 25km from Melbourne CBD & 40 minutes from Melbourne Airport.

D) Our heritage, family links to our property dating back to the 1800's. During Melbourne's horse drawn cab era. Alfred Henry Gange - original purchaser of "Highview Farm".

Grandfather of Carolyn Donald 133 Phipps Cr, Diamond Creek.

Trees. Peacefulness. Space. Friendly people. Entry to Eltham being across the Diamond Creek (near Fitzsimons Lane) into treed reserves, Wingrove Park. The old trestle bridge. Alistair Knox Park and the Community Precinct (fitting entry to the G.W) That townships beyond Eltham are contained, small and surrounded by farms, 20 acre lots or more. Kangaroo Ground are high remote.

Please tell us about the social challenges you have experienced

No council or government services near.
Transport issues are huge, but on the other hand, it is the price we pay for living in this spectacular environment. The Council rates are very high - very high, especially for those of us who do not get very much infrastructure for the high rates we pay.
Lack of public transport options, parking at stations. Traffic congestion
Transport is a problem as one must have your own and it takes time to go anywhere, however this is balanced by the enjoyment of being here.
Parking at the train station is insufficient for current & future needs & the overflow is creeping into the retail precinct availability. The largest Junior Basketball club in the southern hemisphere, Eltham Wildcats need a substantial stadium to accommodate their growing needs.
Unable to park at railway stations during the day. So it's difficult to use the train.
Lack of infrastructure in the wedge area. Lack of transport due to few people allowed to live here.
Interfering extreme greens making baseless complaints
North Warrandyte has no footpaths down to Warrandyte despite many people walking up and down Kangaroo Ground Rd. Nillumbik council seems to spend its money largely in other parts of the region.
Lack of public transport, support for seniors to stay in their homes as they age, support for seniors to move into supportive accommodation locally
It is dangerous to ride my bike on the KG St Andrews Rd. Too much traffic. Road barriers are too close to the road
To get to work, I have to drive - it's not possible to get to the other side of town by public transport. In recent years traffic has increased enormously and this has caused me great difficulties, adding significant time to my commute. Most of the traffic, though, isn't local - it's people from the western side cutting through to get to the east. The Warrandyte Bridge becomes a serious bottleneck.
Traffic congestion
The roads are packed with traffic from outside the green wedge. Nillumbik shore is caught paying for people from outside our shire using our infrastructure. We need better roads, and sensible development eg expand the Yarrambat township to 1 hectare properties out to broadgully road to fund new infrastructure and balance high and medium density living.
Too much development
<p>Lack of bus services beyond the rail terminus at Hurstbridge are real problem for us personally and for the viability of families with pre-teenage, teenage and young-adult children. The wilful obstructiveness of the Dept of Transport really needs to be challenged and over-ruled.</p> <p>The school bus services operated by DECD are also unnecessarily obstructive in refusing to provide for families quite legitimately choosing schools other than DVSC.</p> <p>By comparison, Council assistance with the Community Bus on Saturdays is much appreciated. It would be good to try a pilot extending the service to meet the main trains morning and late afternoon/evening Mon-Friday.</p> <p>A quite different problem is with telecommunications. I despair of Telstra who have happily accepted Federal money in the mobile black-spot program, but actually failed completely to provide acceptable levels of mobile or internet service to many parts of the Shire. Others feel similarly and have turned to a small-scale local provider but when NBN arrives I fear we will be shunted onto inferior service once more.</p>
Traffic has reached an unacceptable levels and not what I expected when I moved in - this has effects on family, recreation, cultural heritage and health. Morning and evening peak

hours in Diamond Creek into Eltham and on the weekends on Hurstbridge road. Cars forced onto back roads, tempers flared, smog.

The reality is people absolutely need to drive both for work and getting around the region. Nillumbik is hilly, (unlike say Carlton) and is made up of smaller townships, (unlike say Northcote which has a focal high street), so for all but those that live very close to our town centres it's impossible to nick down the shops with a bike or a trolley. We are also 30+ kms from metro Melbourne, a 2hr bike ride suitable only for the fittest / keenest. Almost every household in Nillumbik requires a car. This will not change.

Related to the shires traffic woes are the spillover effects from Whittlesea shire, people avoiding Diamond Creek road / Greensborough bypass by driving through St Helena / Greensborough and Eltham.

Previously I worked in Bayswater which meant driving through Kangaroo Ground / Warrandyte. The traffic congestion at the corner of Kangaroo Ground wattle Glen road/ Eltham - Yarra Glen road and through Warrandyte were ridiculous.

The region can not cope with increased residential development and maintain its positive qualities. Living 30kms plus from Melbourne shouldn't mean living with decreased traffic congestion not some of the worst in Melbourne. The only solution if the population must persistently rapidly rise is less housing estate developments where every house inevitably requires a car and instead more higher density subdivisions (units) within 500 metres - 1km of train stations. Otherwise traffic jams will stretch for kilometres along our single carriageway roads and be continually clogged.

I am extremely fearful that in 10-15 years an actual green wedge will just be a memory and we'll have sold out the very features that make living here desirable.

Limited bus services/public transport. Unsafe roads for cyclists. Need more shared use recreation trails to support horse riding eg Christmas Hills subdivisions

Council has not listened in public hearings when I tried to get the bloody planners understand issues related to disabled people

Traffic overflow impacting on road safety and congestion.

Limited and infrequent public transport away from the train line - this increases reliance on cars and exacerbates traffic congestion problems. Also less autonomy and independence for people who don't drive. Buses to the train stations and perhaps more parking around train stations would be helpful. Cycling infrastructure to encourage cycling for commuting is also lacking.

As still studying full time at school I am not old enough to get my licence there isn't a bus to my knowledge that goes near my house I live just off a main road

Transport is poor

Environmental extremists lie - being socialists they do not respect or recognise private landowner rights in the green wedge - refuse to acknowledge my piece of the green wedge belongs to me - and being environmental extremists they do not value human life. do not recognise the high risk involved in living in a high bushfire prone area, do not value our family recreation interests including horse ownership and riding, or motor bike riding, and are a menace. Many are ageing and so devote their time to environmental activism - which we can not possibly counter - because we work and maintain our property and raise our children and do not have the same disposable time that they seem to have. They are enormously dangerous to the green wedge and every one and everything living in it. Living in a community where a vocal minority routinely expresses a wish that all people living in the wedge should die or a claim (unsupported by evidence) that all landowners in the green wedge are property developers who do not respect the environment is unhelpful and unpleasant. They in my view are the biggest threat to the green wedge - which is odd really given that they claim to support and revere it.

The quality of road surfaces across the local area is poor, and degrading annually. The barriers Vic Roads has put in on main roads is a danger to road users and wildlife. Vic Roads, SP Ausnet, Melbourne Water and Council do not fulfill the bushfire risk

<p>minimisation and reduction works they are obliged to facilitate and the public landholdings across the area have unacceptably high ground fuel as a result. Roadsides that used to be cleared to minimise bushfire spread risk are now treed - thanks to Vic Roads who appear to think it's fine to offset plant every square inch of the green wedge - which means in an emergency most roads will be unuseable - the area is now quite dangerous. It is challenging to be involved in the local community, to work full time out of the area, and to juggle the kids and their activities with growing property management responsibilities - but it's what we do.</p>
<p>My parents live in kangaroo ground and would like to sub-divide so we can live too. It means we can't afford land for our family to live on.</p>
<p>Public transport is poor. A more regular and wider ranging bus service particularly to train stations (& timed to coincide with trains so you're not waiting for half an hour) would enable commuters to get out of their cars improving traffic flow & air quality & also give more independence to our kids & those who are unable to drive.</p>
<p>Being an outer suburb transport public and disability transport</p>
<p>Once this community was a wonderful and cohesive place most people were polite and caring. Too much development has led to a rise in population pressure, disagreements and some pretty awful social media posts</p>
<p>There are nowhere near enough recreation areas in Nillumbik, even compared with municipalities that have much less available land higher density living. Infrastructure is lacking with 24 hour fire stations in only half the shire. Is there any 24 police stations within Nillumbik? I'm not sure, but doubt it. Bike paths are poor and sadly lacking in Nillumbik. Path to city is incomplete with cyclists having to ride on many sections of roadway, which I think any reasonably minded person would agree is very dangerous given the traffic volumes and average speed of traffic that moves on these roads now 7 days a week and a great many hours of the day. Gone are the days when peak was 7-9am and 3-5pm.</p>
<p>The build up of higher density living around Eltham and beyond means that traffic is too great for many of the roads that were built for a much smaller population.</p>
<p>No bus service through Kangaroo Ground. No transport link to KG or Panton Hill. Poor train services - too infrequent from Wattle Glen. Insufficient walking/bike paths for locals and tourists. Very little to do for teenagers. Very few after school activities organised by council.</p>
<p>I think the community is driving towards short term development goals and monetary gain at the expense of our long term survival. The label "greeney" is often heard as a derogatory remark. The words conservation and biodiversity are sneered at as being un-achievable, and "managing the green wedge" is used as code-words for maximizing profits, business growth and selfish individual landowner power. The use or adoption of time proven local indigenous (wurundjery) practices is passively resisted at a community level and is replaced by broad destruction of the living environment by high tech chemicals, machinery and implements that eventually destroy the green wedge. Local schools, businesses and contractors are not showing a commitment to preserving the benefits of the green wedge.</p>
<p>Leanne drive and main road intersection is a nightmare to turn out of. Turning right on to main road is impossible during peak hours.</p>
<p>access for all abilities could be improved. The speed of traffic through hurstbridge is a concern for me. There is not much time for a person to get in or out of their car if parked along side the main road in front of the shops. access for all abilities to trails is important to me, Congratulations on the shed in diamond creek for the special bikes. More access like this would be very much appreciated. access to trails on my horse would be appreciated as I have multiple sclerosis and while I can still walk a short distance , having access on my horse will give me greater access.</p>
<p>In this small community it is a challenge community it is a challenge to work together cooperatively with others with differing ideas on environmental issues. Working together on community projects building good relationships with neighbours is my goal. So with family I</p>

work in community groups like the Local festivals, join in with people in food shares in our street swapping our produce ,planting vegetation on each other 's properties is very successful in having a good community which make it such a pleasure to live here.
Public transport is terrible.
Public transport is non existent for us at Oantin hill which forces us onto the roads which is poor planning Roads need to be fixed to stop congestion and pollution
Too many road works. Not enough warning when they happening and then the crews not packing up on time.
Racism towards my wife's family
Lack of infrastructure- footpaths, bus
Traffic through Eltham & Warrandyte has become dreadful over the years. The bottlenecks at Warrandyte Bridge are horrendous. Engaging in family, cultural, community & recreation activities needs to be planned taking account of traffic issues. Ability to support an elderly relative on the other side of the river is being compromised. Even cycling on Sunday mornings has become more dangerous
Sometimes living here is challenging because of the distance to the centre of the city - the traffic is horrendous. Public transport is limited and can be unreliable. Secondly, there have developed tensions between people in their world views about Development and the natural environment that has created an 'us' and 'them' mentality. This adds to isolation and alienation.
Roads leading to the city are clogged with traffic. Roads around Eltham/Diamond Creek/Warrandyte are clogged with traffic. Too much time between trains on the Hurstbridge line
Insufficient trains being scheduled at peak times out past Eltham. Train stations having insufficient parking available and causing traffic conjection in the surrounding area's. Not enough forward planning to make parking and catching public transport easily accessible. Road conjection.
The increased development of the area has meant traffic and congestion is particularly bad in Eltham and Diamond Creek. Streets are more congested with parked cars after subdivision of sites take place. Parking at retail areas of Eltham is full with commuters and employees. Big ugly developments near the shops in Eltham is a real concern to my family and I, I hope this is not allowed to continue as the country feel of Eltham is being lost.
Apparent lack of active policing: hoons doing burnouts on rural roads, out buildings appearing without planning notification, increasing noise levels (people moving to the green wedge for the wrong reasons - exploit lack of active controls).
There is not enough references or history or recognition to the indigenous people who lived here before Europeans. There should be more bush trails for riding and walking in high conservation value areas.
Getting places is difficult. Roads that were built to be local roads and take local traffic are increasingly being used as links to freeways (e.g. warrandyte-KG road), reducing liveability and driving people away from living here. Public transport is vastly inadequate and not a viable alternative.
Eltham train station requires a little upgrade. the roads become very congested due to oncoming traffic from Hurstbridge. Bridge st bridge and some Main street require re-development. We need more traffic lights- was pleased to hear about a new set of light ner BP petrol station. The other key thing is we need to make Eltham more walkable wihin our community around town centre and schools - many more traffic solutions needed - pedestrain crossings, lights, speed bumps etc. DO NOT wait for a disaster to happen - we have more kids, cyclists and increased traffic mingling together
Definitely transport - living in St Andrews definitely puts the pressure on with teenage children.

Despite living on a few acres in the Green Wedge, our nearest neighbour has, for years, been continuing some kind of on-site developmental work, so that most weekdays, we have to listen to heavy machinery noise for most of the day. Their house is quite close to ours. As well, they have erected outdoor lighting that shines into our house as well as onto their yard, all night. I don't want to have to raise the issue with them - I guess it's not a very big deal, but one of the pleasures of living in the Green Wedge, is the freedom from man-made noise and light pollution. Are there any restrictions on this?
lack of adequate public transport and traffic delays
None really...mainly because it is an expensive area!
It's just a long way from town and a lot of services, but that's OK.
Traffic is increasingly problematic which is exacerbated by the influx of townhouse style developments increasing population density in the area
The social challenges are minuscule for me. Driving kids around used to be a problem, but that is part of the deal of living here. It would also be very useful were there to be an occasional bus to Hurstbridge station.
As I said under 1. here it is especially transport and infrastructure that has impacted negatively on my/our lifestyle
The large trucks using back roads such as Black Gully Road and Wilsons Road are a major concern in terms of the way they rip up the road. The speed limits on these 2 narrow roads are also 10km too high. There are many displaced animals due to residential developments trying to cross the road and the traffic numbers are increasing as well as the speed makes travelling dangerous for all.
Travel to high school was like 1:30 total each day and uni is 2-2:30 hours now with public transport
I feel that there are some people who believe it is their God-given right to do whatever they want wherever they want, and do not respect the environment and world we live in. Their selfish and self-richeousneas is dangerous and frightening. Meeting people like this in our community means that I withdraw from certain social interactions. I feel there needs to be awareness and behaviour change programs rolled out by local and state government to improve our future.
I do not like overdevelopment of flats near Eltham township. The area has changed but it is still a good place to live and the Council has mainly made good planning decisions.
One train line is insane. Even at peak hour, services from Eltham are often 20 minutes apart. Go to South Morang and they are 6 minutes apart. Please, this is ludicrous. The road through Eltam to Fitzsimmons Lane cannot cope with the increasued volume of cars, so unless trains get more regular this will get worse. Eltham train station car park is typically full, so either creating more car spaces or encourage / upgrade stations such as Montmorency or Diamond Creek.
Vandalism, graffiti, litter, rubbish dumping, poor dog-control, traffic jams, parking problems, lack of interest in the benefits of the Wedge giving it only monetary value.
Finding a balance between keeping the rural/rustic feel and accommodating a modern society. Too much subdivision and high density housing has led to massive traffic congestion.
The area is excellent for developing strong supportive community groups who assist in safeguarding the area (Friends of "" groups, environment groups), promoting recreational and family activities (numerous clubs, associations). The transport could be improved by more regular trains from Hurstbridge and the further extension of the bus services (which have recently had some upgrades). This would further improve the accessibility of other infrastructure. The limited promotion of aboriginal history and culture is a major missed opportunity and could form another part of our Green Wedge spirit
I feel that a critical, often hidden component of social planning is not being emphasised adequately in state and local policy documents. The GWMP addresses it a little by separating

<p>Social objectives into ' People and Community'. However, surely the 'Community' component deserves its own heading under the banner 'Cultral' - otherwise critical indicators of what makes a place special/successful/worth visiting/ can be missed. Where social planning embraces services, facilities and resources, the less tangible indicators of cultural planning are often left by the wayside. These include identity, atmosphere, culture, traditions, sense of place, community spirit and creativity. Now that Council has adopted the 'Artisan Hills' brand, I feel it important that cultural planning be recognised equally alongside social, environmental and economic planning in important policy documents such as the GWMP.</p>
<p>Inadequate public transport has meant that since moving into Wattle Glen in 1971 we have spent more time travelling by car than we liked. We had to travel by car more than we wanted to ourselves and had to drive children to many places, sometimes to school and certainly to other destinations. Sometimes their participation in activities was limited due to the transport difficulties. Even crossing Heidelberg - Kinglake road to get to Wattle Glen station was a challenge, as a result of the number of cars and the speed at which they travelled.</p> <p>The lack of footpaths was another significant problem that made keeping up with exercise very challenging but I appreciate that there has now been some improvement in this, which is fortunate, as we had got to the stage that we had to drive to an area where we could safely go for a walk!</p> <p>We believed that ageing meant that it was no longer appropriate for us to continue living in Wattle Glen and we have since moved to Eltham in the interests of our safety and mobility.</p>
<p>Congested roads</p>
<p>Despite the attractions of cycling in the Wedge, many of the roads make inadequate provision for cyclists with the result that many are deterred from that healthy enjoyment.</p>
<p>Overrun with migration without provision of infrastructure.</p>
<p>Travel is difficult. I leave for work very early in the morning and the roads are a challenge with drivers at that time exceeding the speed limit. While i support cyclists sharing our roads at times on the climb up to Kinglake I have seen some extremely dangerous situations</p>
<p>Transport and infrastructure is a challenge. It can put me off from visiting particular areas. This is not only in and around the Green Wedge, but getting to the Green Wedge.</p>
<p>There are few community facilities in KG to north Warrandyte</p>
<p>Transport and infrastructure are big challenges. The growing city puts a lot of pressure on transport and infrastructure and this adds extra challenges in the green wedge when you are trying to limit the size and extent of development.</p>
<p>I would love it if my kids could cycle to school. I would LOVE IT TOO if all cyclists could feel safer on the roads. People should be encouraged to be active. I think the bike lane that extends to Hurstbridge is fantastic ... it would be great if it could be extended further. I believe there was a missed opportunity after Black Saturday to make the Kinglake Road safer. It's also a shame that the new barriers installed between Eltham and Panton Hill increase the safety hazard for cyclists and pedestrians. It is now quite difficult to get of the road if danger is detected from behind.</p> <p>There are limited sporting opportunities in the shire when compared to other shires. Childcare is a huge challenge if living in St Andrews. It's a shame nanny's cannot be included in the existing child care benefits scheme. It would not only help with our family needs but also offer employment to another person in the area.</p>
<p>Limited public transport options mean car ownership is mandatory at the moment. Some locals have excessive use of motorised toys. Limited police presence results in unwanted hoons.</p>
<p>Public transport, inadequate. Parking at train stations after 0700hrs.impossible. Increasing traffic congestion.</p>
<p>On infrastructure, Vic roads has not installed sufficient bicycle lanes/verges beside the roads</p>

to make cycling safe. On the regulatory and environmental front there are always attempts to loosen the planning regulations which protect the green wedge, thus incrementally destroying it.
Transport across the bridge is terrible and getting worse.
Mainly transport - no public transport to Hurstbridge station. Also lack of parking if you do drive to the station. The issue of lack of a bus service from the outer areas of the Green Wedge particularly impacts on young people who need to get to schools or entertainment venues.
Transport and travel - connection via train
The NGW is vital community health asset. The opportunity it provides for escape from the pressures of the urban environment - traffic, crowding, noise, etc - are very important to the well-being not just of locals but of all Melburnians. There is growing medical concern about "nature-deficit syndrome" for which the NGW is part of the remedy. The NGW also plays a role in human society's obligation to the well-being of other species, for it is as much their home and province as it is ours.
Great school community and families we have met through Kangaroo Ground primary school. Lack of public transport in rural areas.
Council and neighbours feel it is their right to tell me and my family how to live on OUR land. My families quality of living is not good
No mail delivery. No public transport - train 12km away with limited parking. Community division over issues eg C81 & C101 - us versus them mentality.
When the children reached teenage years there was no transport to the station or shops so we drove them around alot. At least now they have a community bus on Saturdays but it would be nice if there was a bus run during the week. While there was cricket, tennis and football when our children grew up, it was all pretty competitive and when one of our children lacked sporting greatness, they often were left out of teams especially if the team ever got into final series. I wish there were more community activities to draw the township together. While On the Hill and carols are highlights, there doesn't seem to be much else unless it's a gathering for a fire meeting, which is more stressful than anything.
Dick heads moving in to the area who make a shit load of noise cutting down trees and riding motor bikes.
A lack of a safe pathway along Warrandyte-research road and warrandyte-kg roads has meant that I have had to use my car when I could have walked. It also means that kids in our area don't walk to school and to friends houses nearby.
Traffic driving to and from work. I have had to change jobs to work closer to home. Traffic in and out of Eltham is difficult, it moves once I have crossed the Green Apple Peel Roundabout.
Very limited access available by foot or bikepath throughout North Warrandyte. From research to eltham and further afield bike paths are plentiful. This i feel is socially limiting.
There needs to be transport, why is there still no bus routes
mostly access and frequency of service to public transport for those of us who reside in the outer parts of the shire
It would be good to improve the pedestrian networks in North Warrandyte by improving footpaths on the main roads and formalising some right of ways.
We have raised 3 children here and have actively been a part of their journey as a volunteer in their environments. We support local clubs and integrate our time into the various cultural and community events.
sometimes very loud and fast cars have caused 'near death' experiences for me while riding on my own land. Dumped animals and rubbish is appalling'
Access to safe horse riding trails to get off the road
There is no public transport in the Bend of Islands, but it is not a big enough challenge to

me. There was a community school bus when the kids went to school and this was enough to manage the distance and travel.
Living in the greenwedge, especially in Plenty we have been invaded by traffic from other shires. Plenty has lost its beauty, and sadly the destruction of 3054 trees along YVR for 4 Km of realignment is tragic, and we will experience the same in Yarrambat. Only recently we have had a bus service, Yarrambat is still lacking and Diamond Creek, however, we have development taking place right around us, and eroding our social values, and destroying our serenity, however, properties on the edge of the GW/Urban development are providing the lungs of Melbourne for who? and Nillumbik are restricted with business development due to the restrictions on RCZ properties. Also early settlers wish to stay in Nillumbik, but cannot do anything with their properties due to the restrictions, and have to sell due to the high rates, roads being made, and generally the lack of public transport
I believe council has done an excellent job with community and cultural issues
Infrastructure - no Broadband and in any event would it be a quality service. I am not short of local social contact but some relies on working with others across municipal boundaries
Then traffic has become very heavy over the last 5 years. The noise starts at 5am and the road is busy all week (Kangaroo Ground- St Andrews road) It is more dangerous to bike ride and the barriers are very close to the road Some of the newer locals don't understand being part of the community and they can't be relied on to help as they are temporary residents. We need people to be involved in local activities eg CFA. Tennis clubs, Pony clubs, footy etc
The residential growth both within the shire and in neighbouring shires has produced major traffic issues which seem not to have been anticipated by planning authorities. This also applies to education, health, recreation which seem to have been forgotten in the drive to sell land and build houses.
I am from Hurstbridge and have very strong concerns of the large pre-fab houses being developed (or pending proposal approval) around the area. If the old heritage builds and aesthetic of the town dwindle over time, tourism will suffer greatly and affect our small business owners, especially brick and mortar shop fronts. More warning sign's need to be put up around the area for animal crossing zones, and in my opinion....a lower speed limit when entering and leaving the town (I've seen 4 dead roo's in just the last month)
There is a large part of our culture & heritage missing in that I can go 12 months without even seeing an aboriginal person
Transport is hard but that is the price you pay. Otherwise it is great to live in Nillumbik!
Lack of public transport means we are half an hour away from shops, libraries swimming pools and of great importance for me, the main Yarra Bike Trail.
Cultural heritage values are under appreciated and under recognised. Development Resources & inadequate enforcement of planning controls erodes cultural heritage values
Severe lack of public transport options. Despite Hurstbridge being on the train network, it's difficult to get to work in the city.
Cultural heritage values are under appreciated under negotiated and inadequately protected. Retention development presumes and inadequate enforcement of planning controls, erode cultural heritage values.
Transport could be a challenge when no-longer able to drive a car as live in bush area.
Transport
Have to drive longer distances but improbable by the open spaces.
Lack of public transport is about the only problem Telecommunications difficultly - Mobile phone & satellite NBN are both unreliable.
Once you live in Bend of Islands you adjust your lifestyle to slower and more observational. This means you slow down on the roads and live to the conditions and the wildlife possibilities and take your time getting to meetings with friends / schools etc.

Having to educate friends & family about the importance of the green wedge. Public Transport I limited here but this allows a more natural area.
The public transport being late most of the time
The limited pedestrian crossing, the trees getting constantly cut down, and the limited footpaths [you cant get to certain places you need to go by walking sometimes.]
sometimes the trains or buses are late? but usually their pretty good
Public transport has been a struggle with getting places with the traffic and the danger of crossing roads.
I think that we should have more public transport because even though most railway lines are now open, there is still not enough room when you get onto the train. I think that we need more.
The lack of crossings makes it a bit dangerous and unnerving to cross the street.
The only thing is I wish the Eltham barrel did burn down :C
a lot of cars, should add more roundabouts
The public transport was slow and under construction for a while.
The traffic is really bad, it takes really long to get home even on public transport. I think that there should be more public transport because the busses are always full and you can never find a seat because the bus is packed
unsure
A social challenge would probably be all the road works.
when driving there are a lot of idiots on the road
The train being late or just me missing the train. I need to be on time and more organised and so does the train.
There are bus stops but no buses.
There is so much development happening and so many apartments are being built. This shouldn't be happening since it is the green wedge. The taxes are also too high for what we get, and after paying lots of taxes there is still not enough room in the budget for things that need to be done around our property, such as drainage works, etc.
I haven't faced any challenges.
not very many places to hang out and socialise
Infrastructure works like the Bolton Street works have made it harder to get to school and I've had to go around some parts. I've always wanted parks with more recreational areas, although a few parks already have skate parks it would be better if there was a group (maybe even Nillumbik Youth Group) that could set up ropes courses and other engaging activities every sometime that older kids could come along and have some fun.
As a resident in the green wedge our suburban friends find the distance to visit us challenging but once here they enjoy it immensely. The green wedge also fosters a community spirit amongst locals so challenges are few.
Communications is a challenge in that we do not have a reliable mobile or internet service. This is particularly important for emergencies & when there is a bushfire incident. Access to an ambulance service that in an emergency.
Distance: everything is 1/2 away. Eltham, diamond creek, Yarra Glen. Not a complaint, a challenge.
Working at getting to know diverse people & ideals different from mine especially about environmental. This is interesting though & getting into community events & festivals. Land care, church all helps.
Lack of public transport.
Traffic to/from the Warrandyte bridge is terrible at peak times. Bridge widening looks unlikely

to fix this.
The commute to the city is very long due to road congestion and too many stops on the hurstbridge line
Transport
hard to visit family and local venues in the area with traffic congestion
I haven't welcomed the making of footpaths and roads and road side buffers, in my home town. Traffic speeds up when roads are widened, bitumen and concrete is hard to walk on and bitumen is hot in summer, and the tree roots lift it up and causes hazards. Dirt roads are also a fire break whereas bitumen can burn. I was saddened by the making of the footpath in Cherry Tree Road. I used to walk the original path and think of the generations that had trod it. The crushed rock is very compacted and is just as hard to walk on as a concrete path. I appreciate that others do appreciate it though and it is good that the tree roots will not push up the surface. The destruction of Yarrambat is like something that used to happen in the 70's. Re instating the rail to Whittlesea should have been the first consideration before the community and environmental destruction that is now taking place.
The pressures of travelling time and work have reduced the input of working families into the community
Being able to participate in local horse riding club activities and enjoy the company of friends horse riding in the area has helped maintain my socialising and benefited my physical and mental health. Particularly the latter.
transport is limited so have to use car (not environmentally friendly)
transport is limited so have to use car
A lack of appreciation of the environment on the part of many community members. The philosophy that it's ok to live in the bush and trash it with vehicles, inappropriate land use, using land as a dumping ground and total disregard for fauna and flora.
The commute to the city has always been long with no rail system close to Warrandyte
Lack of public transport in St Andrews. Lack of medical professional
little to no upkeep in the original areas (except the new development areas)
Cultural Heritage being threatened or ignored
If as a community we are being to use public transport then public transport and infrastructure must be improved, parking in and around Eltham station needs to be increased dramatically
Very poor Infrastructure - No Sewer, Poor Drainage, Poor Water Management, Poor Planning Outcomes. Poor Planning Enforcement.
Driving around on the shires roads has become a nightmare due to the massive increase's in traffic that our rural roads are not designed to handle caused by the residents of the satellite cities that have been built on Nillumbik's door step, we are in a loose-loose situation, our lifestyles are being eroded in almost every way with no net gain to us. Our only option is to sell and move out further to regain what we once had, but due to the planning constraint we currently live under our property values are fractional of what they could be.
Joining a 'Friends of' or Landcare is a great way to help the environment and the biodiversity of our unique Green Wedge. A by-product of volunteering with like-minds on re-vegetating public or private land is great for you mental and physical health.
Lack of public transport. Rail timetables are not conducive to commuting... though are adequate... but not inspiring.
Transport out to places like St. Andrews is very limited. Number of trains out to Hurstbridge leaving from Greensborough. Having to change trains at Greensborough
I live in Nth Warrandyte and despite paying high rates we get very little in return. Lack of proper footpaths, road drainage and unsealed roads are a constant issue and the council does very little to help.

I would also like to see more done to protect and advertise our rich cultural heritage in the area.
<p>The hurstbridge line needs more trains more often.</p> <p>We also need better infrastructure and roads to cater to the growth in population around diamond creek/hurstbridge etc... The government didnt plan for the future growth when it comes to infrastructure/roads. This work should have been done 5-10 years ago. We also need the bike trail to run from diamond creek to hurstbridge. It isnt safe with bike riders riding on the road 2 abreast. This will also open up jobs for local retailers in Hurstbridge/Wattle Glen/Diamond Creek</p>
Traffic holdups at Diamond Creek, particularly due to the railway crossing. Increasing traffic on Heidelberg-Kinglake Road.
The North Riding generally has gone from working class to yuppie. Research has gone Yuppie/Suburban. That's not a challenge as such, just a change. The real challenge is driving anywhere to socialize - you can't if you're a drinker, and there's no public transport.
Limited public transport services.
Moving from suburbia to Wattle Glen was like moving from the desert to an oasis. I find it uplifting when I drive onto Kangaroo Ground Wattle Glen Rd and fear that this could all be destroyed if the lungs of Melbourne are carved up into housing estates and large shopping centres.
<p>I was born in Strathewen. I watched Strathewen turn into an underbelly drug area supported by many locals involved even after the fires people who took charge were disgusting. They knew I had been sexually assaulted by a drug dealer and in front of me they would engage joyful conversation with him, hug him, give him a birthday party. He sexually assaulted many women, even working in disability and as far as I know still living with one of his clients. I have always stood up against the drugs and assault much to the hiracheys horror. One bushfire councillor could not believe what was going on in Strathewen and people told her that she had better be with Strathewen and keep quiet and wanted her to pull me into line. I also obtained the classification of being mentally ill to cover up assault and drugs. Another couple who still deal would hold Strathewen social nights for drugs and obtain new clients. This lady has wormed her way into the primary school, great way to pick up new clients. Be very wary of some of our high profile locals. Landcare was held at drug dealers properties organised by some who should have known better. One came to me and said we knew what you were trying to do but it was too big. Bull they were too afraid of losing their status while winning awards from council they all make me sick not caring about others. Don't be too quick about handing out money to some of these artist communes as they are parasites on society and you will be feeding them</p>
Working with council to improve and extend the network of trails - very slow progress
The demographic profile of Nillumbik is changing. Isolation of ageing rural residents is a challenge for Council services. This can be partially addressed by supporting community groups who provide access and transportation for these residents. Also, changes in the social profile of recently incoming residents is creating some tensions between those who have been here for generations or who settled here because of the Green Wedge ethos and those who value their individual rights without community interference. Living in a designated Green Wedge involves the willing sacrifice of personal freedoms for the good of the environmental values inherent in our mission statement.
The current council seems disinterested in the people of Nillumbik
I would like there to be better public transport services, particularly the trains. I would like more value placed on, and promotion of, our cultural heritage, e.g. art, writing.
I see Nillumbik constantly moving forward in a positive way toward community and the health of our community, by building walking tracks, horse riding trails and dog parks. We are a healthy community and its great to see the shire investing money supporting this, and the community using these facilities.

The amount of traffic that funnels through from the new housing estates to the north. The lack of road infrastructure to deal with the growth expected in Melbourne by 2030
<p>Transport - All members of the household need transport to get around - when my kids didn't drive they could become isolated.</p> <p>Community - The continual external threats to our environment from people wishing to develop and introduce other changes removes our sense of security and peace but creates a strong community</p>
<p>People move out here for the bush/country lifestyle then want the facilities of the suburbs installed, like concrete footpaths.</p> <p>People sometimes move out from the burb with a suburban mentality, don't join in with the community, don't know their neighbours. Our beautiful area needs people to know each other, to volunteer in local organisations, etc.</p>
There is a need for people to live more sustainably.
<p>The lack of communication about plans for development in Eltham.</p> <p>The Eltham Pre-school community on Main Road has suffered socially as the families have not been kept in the loop about what is going on. The entire community is in the dark about the proposed development. The Pre-school was told 2018 was its last year operating and that it would cease to exist, rather than being relocated. Now they are apparently taking enrolments for 2019...the information keeps changing making it very difficult for all involved!</p>
<p>A lack of public transport means I have to drive to get anywhere and there are more and more cars on the road. It's disappointing that the trains run so infrequently past Eltham and there are no buses (except the Saturday Council bus) past Hurstbridge. I notice that the new bus route between Greensborough and Hurstbridge runs alongside the train line and arrives at the same time as the train - what's the point? It could be filling in the vast gaps between trains.</p> <p>One thing that really infuriates me is the way VicRoads has placed numerous barriers and signs along the Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Road and recently lowered the speed limit to 60kph in another section in KG. This is ridiculous. It is not a suburban street and to have millions of dollars spent on these things resulting from 9 accidents over many years is crazy. The road looks like a pinball machine at night with all the reflective surfaces and it has made the whole area ugly. We may as well wrap all the trees in cotton wool if we're going to these extremes.</p>
As this is a negative question I will answer it with a positive. The people are great!
Transport is a challenge due to limited public transport and a lack of quality footpaths on busy local rural roads.
roads need to be fixed. congestion is a disaster....but we do NOT need a freeway thru the shire
With the growing rise of housing around the Eltham shopping area, I have restricted the times - and length of visits - to the area. The amount of traffic on weekends has increased, making Saturdays traffic similar to a weekday. There is less parking available, not less physical spaces, just more people wanting the same amount of spaces. I drive to work during the week, using the ring road, and on the weekend I don't want to sit in traffic and negotiate traffic queues to get my weekly shopping.
Concern about the ability to now clear so much indigenous vegetation with new CFA regs
<p>Public transport for young people is pitiful; the train-line to Hurstbridge is over 100 years old, but with so few residents permitted to live here, thanks to draconian planning regulations, there will never be the passenger levels to make a better service economically viable.</p> <p>Permitting medium-density enclaves to closely follow the existing train line will add new rate-payers, bring an influx of customers for struggling local businesses, and put more passengers onto public transport, creating the impetus for better services.</p>
Increase in traffic with what appears limited responses to this. Inadequate parking at railway stations. Limited train availability of trains beyond Eltham

Road degradation. Unmade road maintenance limited. Rail crossing at Diamond Creek causes major problems.
getting around Nillumbik on a bike, there is poor connectivity and space for bikes on major roads in Nillumbik. Poor public transport connections between buses and trains. Increasing traffic and speeds of cars along the kangaroo ground- warrandyte rd- a number of accidents have occurred on this road.
Too much traffic coming through North Warrandyte. Need not for profit housing for the over 55s in township centres do that the elderly have accommodation options when they want to leave their big blocks, and still want to live in the community.
Just the current Council with their dictatorial attitude.
The distance one must travel to enjoy facilities other than the bush. Public Transport is not available. A visit to the Dr is a return journey of about an hour etc
Transport is difficult and we need more public transport through the rural areas in the Green Wedge.
One of the greatest challenges, prior to 2002 legislation and after, is and has been management of property. Some people believe that GW meant no native vegetation could be touched, resulting in visits & prosecutions from Council Enforcement Officers as these GW people tried to force their views and beliefs on the GW population.
We have a major infrastructure development happening near our corner and to have 20 acre minimum size block when we are surrounded by far smaller blocks is a waste of resources for the council and a fire danger for surrounding smaller blocks.
Infrequent trains from Diamond Creek
Public transport needs to be much better; the lack of regular services makes it more likely for people to drive just so they can be assured of getting home at a reasonable time.
We are challenged by the current split, not in our community, but in the wider community resulting from Council's suggested directions for GW management based on a reduction of the relative importance of our environment.
The main challenge has been to make sure that the all of us within the green wedge understand the issues to maintain it and all work towards this goal
Increasing traffic. Lack of car parking at local railway stations - Wattle Glen, Diamond Creek and Eltham.
The infrastructure for horse riding in the district has a lot to be desired. It seems we are being forgotten or being pushed out of the area. There are still a lot of horse owners in the area and I feel we should be accommodated for as well as every other sporting group.
While I grew up in the Shire of Eltham/Nillumbik it has been my choice to remain and make it my home. The challenge is to accept you live in a rural area, one that by definition will have limited urban facilities. Transport to sporting and recreational facilities, family and community activities may require some additional organisation but the social interaction in doing so only adds to the pleasure.
Overall infrastructure and facilities and badly lacking. Transport infrastructure is deplorable (trains and roads). Diamond Creek town planning is based on needs from 40 years ago. Is way behind the times and does not keep up with current needs and changes let alone future requirements. Diamond Creek has been approved for large growth. Council take the money from Government and developers and waste it. Little to no investment into infrastructure to cope with the growth.
Countless meetings about transport for the area, especially a bus to run to the station to meet the trains, and to kangaroo Ground to meet the buses at school times. The meetings have been a waste of everyone's time as there is no intention of any progress in transport. When Dyson were going to run the buses on a trial they were threatened to be sued.
Public Transport was a problem when first moved to the area but it's getting better

Horse Tracks that have been closed to residents who ride. While outsiders who ride bikes are welcomed to use the tracks. Horse riders well-being is not considered at all in regards to safety. I feel all property owners on acreage should be entitled to build a farm shed to house machinery and other goods.
Many have been forced to leave this area which they have cared for environmentally, due to the severe lack of public transport. As a single parent of a child with a disability, it has been impossible to work full-time and assist my child both educationally and medically without public transport on which I can rely, to know he is able to achieve a small level of independence. It is hugely important for the wider community to have access to green spaces and good environmental outcomes are positively linked to improved mental and physical health. My community works together to improve our spaces environmentally and in so doing we strengthen our connections to each other.
Traffic volume increases in Hurstbridge and Diamond Creek. You need to allow a ridiculous amount of time to ensure you get to appointments etc on time.
The green wedge is precious and gives access to healthy open spaces that promote our wellness, awareness of flora and fauna and gives us links to Aboriginal culture. This is all under threat from development and the desire to sell off open spaces to gain in the short term from money from the land sale.
One of the challenges is that with increasing population in adjacent growth corridors, Nillumbik roads and other infrastructure is coming under enormous pressure mostly by non-ratepayers. The prevalence of ratruns throughout the shire is becoming untenable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ability to access regular public transport - train service to Hurstbridge. * As a horse rider, increasingly dangerous to ride on the roads with increased traffic and speeds and general ignorance of drivers * Despite having grown up in Nillumbik, being made to feel unwelcome and almost persecuted by the hard core 'green' groups in the shire who have a prejudice about horses and who believe they have no place being here
The importance of having green spaces for improved mental health, families, the strong community spirit garnered through working together. We love where we live because of the trees. Our treed urban areas such as Eltham are our extension of the Green Wedge, and indigenous vegetation should be protected all over Nillumbik. Excellent environmental outcomes are also positively linked to improved human health and well-being, community, cultural heritage, recreation, tourism, business development.
No bus service to Arthur's Creek. Roads through Kangaroo Ground so much worse since road barriers have been put up, no where for the kangaroos to go to avoid the cars.
Local Transport limits. Traffic going too fast on windy dirt roads, making it unsafe to ride or walk on the road. Particularly the rubbish truck - way too fast, killing roos in the early morning and making dust!
Lack of safe off road horse riding and bike riding trails,
The most common to us is transport.
Transport - very little public transport in Pantmon Hill. A bus service to the train at Hurstbridge is warranted.
Common sense with speed limits on our local roads. Reduce from 80 to 60 on small narrow roads but increase to 80 on major link between Pantmon Hill and Kangaroo Ground.
I haven't any
Lack of spending on infrastructure to date has seen local and state government needed to spend money on roads and utilities in a short span, which results in a disruptive environment for its residents, business and visitors all alike ...
I love the social life here and have better contact with my neighbours in Warrandyte than any other place I have lived in.
Traffic in Eltham is shocking. Bottlenecks abound. Also, revolting developer "designed" houses are being constructed which bear no aesthetics to the area.

<p>It is very important that we have green spaces for improved mental health, families, community spirit. Excellent environmental outcomes are positively linked to improved human health and well-being, community, cultural heritage, recreation and tourism.</p> <p>I find it difficult to cope with people not valuing this environment and chopping down trees, slashing roadsides and native grasses/plants, clearing vegetation or grazing stock in bushland areas. All of these activities are chipping away at the indigenous vegetation and destroying the natural environment and increasing the vulnerability of our native fauna, many of which are listed as threatened species.</p>
Longer travel times to events / places
'Infrastructure. Inadequate in areas of: - Internet access - Roads - Public Transport
<p>copng with increasing traffic, parking (when I drive) and also crossing roads/streets when walking is a challenge.</p>
<p>Coming from a horse riding family, we have experienced active discrimination from the 'green' community that seem to believe that there is no place in the shire for horses.</p> <p>The hourly train service from Hurstbridge is restrictive, hopefully with the track up grades we will see a more frequent service.</p>
<p>Living in the Green Wedge of Melbourne is a privilege and when deciding to live in the area, if at all possible, consideration should be taken of infrastructure and other services that may not be as readily available as inner city areas</p>
<p>Have to drive to send my child to a primary school of our choosing. can't bike ride as much due to big hills.</p>
<p>The antagonism recently - due to the overlay issues, have caused an awful rift in and with neighbours. Seeing that landowners can do as they please, disregarding the environment for their own benefits, has been very distressing. It is the first time I have experienced bullying in our area. It has almost been enough to want to leave this most precious area in the world.</p> <p>When people do not feel safe and secure in the place they live, mental health issues emerge. People need to know that we do not OWN the land - we are here to use it while we are living, and leave it in the best condition we can. It is not here to be used up and destroyed. I do not believe that ALL people appreciate this - the Green Wedge needs to be protected from selfish landowners.</p>
<p>The challenge i am experiencing is a ever increasing pressure for urban type development in the green wedge that will over time if allowed to increase will result in loss of our native trees and vegetation communities by clearing for construction. This loss of natural values of the green wedge will reduce the amenity of Nillumbik and our quality of life that is one of the outstanding features of living in this municipality.</p>
<p>Because we live further away from the city, we have to travel further to get to see family or go to the beach.</p>
Transport difficulties....congested roads.
The road traffic is not well regulated
<p>FAMILY</p> <p>Challenges have been seen as positives. Challenges of distance ensured that our kids did a lot of walking and saw that as the norm.</p> <p>NEIGHBOURHOOD</p> <p>No challenges here either. Our neighbourhood is friendly, supportive of each other and helpful to nearby state park visitors when needed. Local community organizations are also welcoming.</p> <p>HEALTH</p> <p>Possible challenges have been seen as positives, so that the steepness of terrain and distance to cover to bus stops and neighbours have made us fitter</p> <p>AGEING</p> <p>When we are too old to drive even to the bus stop, we will need to move, as the bus stop is becoming further and the way there is becoming steeper! Assistance for the elderly to stay at</p>

home is more difficult in these settings because so much more assistance is needed. Another challenge of increasing difficulty as we age is the effort needed to control the environmental weeds which invade from two sides where we adjoin state parks, where all scrubby vegetation was cleared for fire protection, so that constant maintenance is now needed to combat the weeds which have replaced the undergrowth
Fitzsimmons lane is a bottleneck.
Access to parts of Nillumbik is difficult and the roads are quite dangerous.
Being a working single mum, I find the distances I have to drive challenging at times. But I have grown up in the area and the positives definitely outweigh the negatives. I have to drive 5 minutes to drop off my older child at school, then another 10 minutes to drop my younger child at childcare, then another 30 minutes onto my work
'- Population growth pressure - Congested roads - Loss of biodiversity
Many important cultural sites in the Shire are not as respected nor cared for as they should be. A perfect example is the Laughing Waters Residency Program, these two buildings designed by Gordon Ford and Alistair Knox respectively are of National significance. A residency program should be run from these house by a contemporary organisation that will care for the buildings.
As a visitor I don't experience challenges. I go there for pleasure and it is easy and pleasant to do so.
Areas for the community to walk and gather in green spaces is important for our physical and mental health. We love where we live and this creates strong communities. Our cultural heritage is an important part of the green wedge and needs to be valued.
Educating people on the biodiversity which is behind what they see as just bush. Spending more time in this area which has healing benefits which are very hard to fully understand beyond fresh air and natural environment...
Only transport, trains not so frequent so I hardly travel by train, only under duress.
well documented that that transport is a key issue.both public and roads poor use is made of a major public asset - the rail to the city....out of peak service to Diamond Creek does not make it useable for business meetings in the cbd - hence more cars on the roads- negative environmental effect rail crossing to Diamond creek needs a solution as does duplication of the road parking etc....
Transport, the reduced number of trains all the way to Hurstbridge
In the section of green wedge adjacent to the Mernda, Doreen Craigburn growth corridor, it lacks mechanisms to support the engagement of people living in the growth corridor with the green wedge and its environs. The lack of amenity those people have with respect to the green wedge, other than just driving through it, and the increasing difference between the green wedge from the adjacent population situate it as a refuge for the privileged elite. This elite currently have little capacity to make a positive contribution to the amenity, social life and economic wellbeing of the adjacent population many of whom are in lower socio – demographic groups because of the 100 acre planning restriction with respect to the development of enterprise within the green wedge.
'With our house centrally placed within 20 acres of undulating bush and open land we have at times had individuals and small groups using our 20 acres as their own backyard or park. As the boundary fences are not all visible from the immediate surrounds of the house and we have a number of small residential blocks along one boundary we have had a number of incidents including: - fishing in our dam. - dogs running through our property - removal of fallen timber for firewood - fires requiring CFA attendance twice in the last 5 years
More cars on roads, not enough public transport. We should be more like Europe with efficient, clean public trains and buses which every body uses regardless of wealth or class.

I use local parks with my family and worry that they may be lost. Once gone, they are gone forever, so please retain them!
I find the frequency of trains services (particularly if you live beyond Eltham) is limiting. Especially in the early evening.
The only social challenge has been disagreements with people about how to properly protect the green wedge. I think it would be of benefit to improve the public transport in more remote parts of the Shire.
Train services are not reliable because of constant disruptions, apart from ongoing railway crossing changes. Also because of limited car parking, commuters park in local streets which are barely wide enough for cars to travel through safely and hazardous for residents to enter and exit their properties.
Subdivision & clearing has invited reduced social cohesion.
Crime has become an issue with burglaries occurring on a regular basis. i don't think there is a property on our road that hasn't been broken into. Our property has someone in attendance 24/7 due to this. It has become so regular that we don't even report it anymore.
Public transport is infrequent and quite slow. Roads are becoming increasingly congested - an upgrade to the train service to enable more frequent, better services would help reduce people's reliance on their cars and reduce congestion on the roads.
The social challenge is more for our (now adult) children, that the trains are not as frequent or as reliable as they would be in an ideal world. One child now lives in London, and our public transport system just cannot compare with what she has become used to there.
I ride a bike out through the Green Wedge regularly one of the challenges is how a minority of cars come very close when you are on the road past Hurstbridge.
Terrible traffic and power outages
Using train for transport to work is eay & relaxing but there are not enougj trains to Hurstbridge. The track needs to be duplicated from Eltham to allow more trains.
We love where we live, because of the natural environment and wildlife, the fresh air, and the peace and quiet; but the incessant development pressures - both from within and without the shire, are causing the continued decline of our environment and our amenity. Many people have been fighting for many years to protect our Green Wedge. We are tired, and it is unsustainable. We need security and proper protection that stops the constant erosion and leads to lasting improvements. So that we may all get on with expending our energies on positive, constructive things, rather than constantly having to return to the barricades and defend the patch!!!!
Community-building efforts and information should be maintained and indeed increased by the council and sensible guidelines and requirements on building and land sub-division development be enforced to limit un-controlled development. The Green Wedge is why I choose to live here and the "vibe of the place" will be lost if measures are not implemented to protect it. Which is just so obvious. However those driven by desire to achieve financial gain by speculative property development WILL rail against this. As individuals who act principally according to self-interest are prone to doing. Their actions must be moderated so that the greater-good is given priority, to build and support a community. Individuals with loud voices, backed by money, who think it is reasonable to "throw their weight around" do not make a community.
That last local election there were extremely bad tactics at play, possibly due to things I am not privy to. I witnessed people letterboxing awful material to put down independent candidates that I believe to be lies. Before this I had more respect for our members than I do now. If those people were still on council we wouldn't be wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars on all of this green wedge plan as it is not necessary unless people are wanting to change it!! And I think experts are needed to do this not a panel of a few residents. All you need are submissions. As is done with anything else.
Transport is an issue. A car is unfortunately necessary to travel the 7km into Hurstbridge for

supplies or public transport. I miss the multicultural influence in this largely white, middle-class area.
Under heading 'Transport' Living so far out of the CBD, where many of my friends and activities are (and work was before recent retirement), means a lot of time spent travelling, and a life dominated by the railway timetable! The days have to be planned carefully ahead, and some things ruled out because too time- and energy-consuming. Having only one Hurstbridge train per hour after 6.45 is often a challenge.
Finding levels of lack of collective awareness on a daily and nightly basis [i.e. every day and night] not good/increasingly bad due to:- littering/yelling/not sharing bike paths by cyclists; dog barking even though owners know they are required to quieten their animals; dog owners who do not clean up their dog's droppings or have dog's on leads; littering from vehicles onto roadsides; every night we are subjected to intense floodlighting from private school [which is surrounded by RCZ3] that will not baffle any lights.
Public transport could be better. More trains coming as far as Hurstbridge would be a great improvement. (State government is acting on this currently.) More local buses, even small shuttle buses to railway stations would be a great improvement. Both these things would get cars off the road, reducing congestion, greenhouse gas production and roadkill numbers.
lack of transportation has meant we rely on cars so recreation ,community and health issues means we have to drive. Property values have also forced our children to live further away which many of our friends have also experienced.
Living on a residential block has not been challenging for us personally in our home. Concerns that as the population increases is the area this will change. All of the above will be challenged
The idea that our relationship with our environment can be looked at in distinct value sets. The fact that everything is interrelated and linked needs to be made apparent. With a healthy environment, we have healthier communities in every possible way. Also, the lack of and/or extremely limited enforcement of Environmental protections has caused significant disruptions and distress in our community. We choose to live in the green Wedge because of what it offers and what we believe we can offer it through our care and regeneration of biodiversity.
The social challenges include Nillumbik not stepping up and banning smoking in more locations; smokers don't take nicely being asked not to smoke near people. Social challenges also include the driving apart of communities by the greed of developers - ie. some landowners only want profit and push for development where the majority of the community don't want it. Social challenges include also the misinformation being purposefully spread to aid the push for development. Council should set things straight when profit-interested groups, and even their own Councillors push for development communities don't want. Misinformation should be nipped in the bud immediately before it does great damage.
Ever increasing traffic on roads where housing developments in adjoining Councils have created vastly increased populations with little consideration for updating infrastructure and public transport.
I have found life very comfortable but I live in Eltham rather than the Green Wedge that is on my "doorstep" and which i value greatly.
Living in the area for nearly 30 years the whole area thrives on family, recreation and cultural heritage. To us there has been few challenges that we have come across.
People leaving gates open. Trespassers.
Sporting facilities are very good, but many more are needed. Greensborough Ring Road to Ringwood needs completion. the proposed Greensborough to Bulleen route will not reduce trucks and traffic through Diamond Creek. We find our health and well-being is well catered for, but more aged care facilities are required as many elderly long time residents have to

move away from long time friends.
<p>My family had intended to give each of our children portion of our land (permitted in the 1954 MMBW plan) so they could remain where they had grown up. Melbourne 2030 completely overlooked the impact of the forced fragmentation of family and social networks caused through the green wedge policies. Such impacts are caused by failure to preserve availability and affordability, a lack of choice and the high cost of land and housing forcing our adult children to move somewhere else more affordable. restricted by zoning requirements landowners are even denied the ability to excise portions of their land to maintain family network.</p> <p>Not only was our land providing the perceived amenity of the green wedge but we were paying the same or higher rates than those our land provides the amenity and benefit for i.e. the people of Greater Melbourne - at our cost. We have also had trouble with people leaving gates open and trespassers.</p>
Transport
<p>Having lived through Heidelberg North Ward, Diamond Valley and Nillumbik councils, unmade roads in the outer suburbs are still in the horse and cart era and not in the 21st century.</p> <p>Restricted housing supply in the wedge leads to a higher cost of housing meaning dislocation of families as the younger generations have to move away from the shire to find more affordable housing.</p> <p>The time and effort required by landowners to maintain their properties and feed and care for stock mostly on weekends doesn't allow for social activities with friends and family and becomes more difficult with age.</p> <p>the emotional and physical stress of confronting trespassers and people dumping rubbish and vandalizing fences and the worrying about the potential for arson and bushfires over summer.</p>
<p>The widening gap between urban/rural/rural interface connection. Whereby urban residents understanding, ignorance, and ideas with a sense of entitlement are at odds with their rural neighbours. That we on the urban fringe rural properties exist to provide urban residents with a rural amenity of privately owned costly parkland.</p> <p>The dumping of rubbish, bottles & cans, theft, vandalism, graffiti, dog droppings & discarded tyres are a continuing annoyance & frustration as I try to enhance & enjoy my property & amenities along Phipps Crescent Diamond Creek. Trespass, firewood theft, stray dogs, animal attacks, noise & hooning, dumping & burning motor cars add to our unpleasant experiences.</p> <p>Note:- 2 neighbours have recently had their dogs shot while straying outside of their own properties.</p>
Challenges - maintaining character. Grateful to action groups who battle to preserve the environment. Transport minimal, so cars used too much.

Please tell us about the environmental challenges you have experienced.

Toyol lack of council response to issues in including fire prevention and road maintenance.
Black Saturday partially destroyed our home and disrupted the lives of many people in the community. But any-one who lives in this area has to be prepared for this disruption - it's part of life in this area. The other challenges have been to do with other people - i.e. dealing with people dumping rubbish or illegally taking firewood.
Worry about fuel load, restrictions on vegetation removal, rabbits and foxes.
Bushfires are a challenge, we had 5 through our property in the early years. It is essential as property owners we are able to maintain our property so as to limit the spread of fire. Just as it is essential that bush fires can be controlled in the green wedge and not reached the densely vegetated urban areas.
Too many changes that are irrelevant
The threat that this wonderful landscape could change, by sub-division, land clearing.
We were very worried by the Black Saturday bushfires being so close to us, viewable from the KG Fire Tower. We are worried about the possibility of Warrandyte going up in a bushfire.
Worried about bushfire. It seems like there are more bush areas now than 40 years ago when we moved here.
Public transport lacking, no shared trails to connect wider community.
Trying to make property bushfire and animal friendly with the negative minority. Like friends of nillumbik who cause stress.
Clearing of bushed sites with new buildings, extensions, etc. Environment is slowly being eroded away
Lack of action by council/state government on feral deer, foxes, rabbits. Ridiculous environmental constraints applied by beaurocrats and ideologically driven environmentalists on how to manage my land holdings (no one stops to think that I live here because I love the environment and I might have well developed knowledge and skills to manage my property for its long term viability - rather, there seems to be an insulting default view that land holders are environmental vandals hell bent on living on a waste land)
Water is too expensive to maintain a flourishing garden
The bushfires
<p>Bushfire has obviously been an issue and will be again. It has to be accepted as a hazard of the area and that hazard managed sensibly and without undue regard for risk-averse lawyers and bureaucrats.</p> <p>A more immediate challenge, and seemingly an endless pressure from landowners with vested interest or from developers, is the push to erode subdivision rules, to allow large buildings, to sell off public land (also a problem within Council) etc etc.</p> <p>We also have problems with VicRoads who go through the motions of community consultation but then do exactly what their rather brutal engineers want in railing, widening and spoiling our rural roads.</p>
The traffic and urbanisation of the green wedge is meaning smog, congestion, dangerous road crossings, injured wildlife and landscape destruction (herberts lane, Collard drive moonscapes).
Being burnt out was an environmental challenge. Fencing and netting to keep wildlife in their 80% of the property is difficult and expensive. Foxes destroying our pure bred chickens and white Chines geese was a serious setback. Wild cats decimating the native birds and small animals . The major current challenge is feral deer that tear up the ground wiping out many plants including orchids, grass for wallabies etc. They also have smashes thousands of dollars worth of fruit and ornamental trees and converted regrowing soft forest and other native area to a wastland of smashed sticks.

We have such a precious and fragile eco system and our area is so precious being so beautiful and close to Melbourne but many disregard the uniqueness and fragility of it and but dollars and greed first
I'm disappointed that it feels we have to battle to maintain our environment and biodiversity. I feel we should be encouraged to maintain and improve it. There are such bleak predictions in the DEWLP 2030 report, shouldn't we be talking about these as we are supposed to be the "lungs of Melbourne".
First of all I own the house and land in Hurstbridge so I don't see why I can excavate it without going through all the bullshit permits and regulations and council paperwork, I didn't buy the land off the council so what with all the fees and regulations and permits for if I own it.
Public reserves and private land not being maintained and the subsequent difficulty of bushfire control in the event of a fire.
Smokey chimneys from neighbours; the added risk of bush fire due to the Council not doing much about it; stupid narrow unsealed roads that are hard to navigate during the day let alone at night; lack of verge on roadside
A small creek near our house was severely degraded, both in the waterway and its banks. I thought that it might be worthwhile establishing a Friends group to do something about it, and letter-boxed the immediate catchment area. This resulted in a meeting at the Shire offices with more than 30 residents, and representatives of Melbourne Water and Nillumbik and Banyule Councils. The outcome was the establishment of the Friends of Eltham West Drain (the creek's official title), 2002. Later on I managed to have the name changed to Karingal Yalloc ("Happy camping ground creek"). The main challenge has been to maintain numbers of volunteers, with Nillumbik SC always supportive).
Threats to remove protected and important relic bushland
Bushfires, weed management, erosion control, red tape ☹️
Drought, fire risk, invasive animals (foxes and rabbits in particular) and their impact on farming, invasive weeds.
Enormous concerns about climate change, bushfire risk, loss of natural environment/habitats. Also concerned about land use issues - should some land be set aside for agriculture to support local food production?
Fear of bushfire on hot days. The loss of areas to over development, Eltham now resembles any other suburb units & townhouses TOO many and traffic congestion, I avoid Eltham if I can
Weed and pest management on a rural landholding is challenging, particularly when there are properties across the district who, due to the age of property owners or the type of property occupiers, do neither. The eradication of weeds like Patterson's Curse, Scotch Thistle and blackberry are part of our routine property maintenance schedule - but many areas of the wedge are now inundated - which means our active management program is ongoing. Pest management for rabbits and foxes is tricky - as Melbourne Water (our back neighbour) does not appear to manage pests - and so it's a losing battle - but it is ongoing. Drought has meant we have lost many older trees up the back, which we are re-planting. Erosion management is ongoing. Managing a landholding of 12 acres is a lot of work. Burgan is the scourge of the district - and has taken over many properties, and in many instances it is not maintained, which I tend to think of as a fire risk. Our management program of this is ongoing. Getting and then keeping paddocks in reasonable shape is hard. Having a rural lifestyle hobby property is a lot of hard work - which legislation, regulation and policy hinders - which is a pity. Because the Christmas Hills land-care group members are for the most part out of area ring in environmental activists, and are now a political lobby group - we can't really reach out to them for ideas - which is a shame really because that's what land-care is supposed to be for. Many council grant programs and Melbourne Water grant programs require properties to be assessed by council staff. We will no longer allow council staff on to our property for any reason - ever - so we can't get access to any

assistance programs. It's hard work - but worthwhile work.
Bush fire management nor understanding of rural areas in Nillumbik has not improved since Black Saturday 2009.
Black Saturday bushfires
Building too many subdivisions and units
There are large pockets of weeds growing along road ways that then spread into private property, the increase in noisy minor birds is also a concern
Moved here in 2009 after Kinglake fires because I love the Bush and have been saddened by the attitude of other people moving in and wanting to chop it down because they are afraid of bushfires! Can't understand why they don't stay in Templestowe etc...! We all choose to live here and need to appreciate how important it is to us all including those outside the Green Wedge. We also need to be responsible for our decisions to live in a bushfire prone area as being part of the package and not seek to change regulations so we can cut it down!
People using bush blocks for horses and destroying the understory vegetation and people shooting and collecting fallen trees for firewood fallen trees are important habitat for wildlife
I live on a beautiful trees street with vegetation right to the edge of the road. Recently people along this street are cutting down the trees and clearing the vegetation to put in car parking spaces. Council does nothing about this despite the fact that it is prohibited to park on the road verge. Cherry ballart trees have been cut down for this.
Areas that are natural parks like the Blue Lake area are fantastic example of what can be achieved to protect endangered native species of flora and fauna. Nillumbik have been at the forefront of Australian Councils waste reduction strategies and waste diversion, but more needs to be done. The Plenty River has been beautified in some parts, but not all. Why can't this beautiful and important waterway be reinvigorated and improved like other significant waterways?
The continuing degradation of remaining bushland is distressing. Having to deal with those that have little knowledge of the true value of our natural environment is frustrating. Concern about Climate Change due to the diminishing bushland .
Disappointment when dwellings are sited to spoil landscape values (i.e. at top of hills or ridges) insensitive siting of tennis courts which wreck beautiful views. Once built, these eyesores are there for ever. Worries about overgrazing of natural areas so that flora is being destroyed. Inappropriate planting of Cypress hedges (for example) which block view-lines for everyone else. Concern about the incremental loss of biodiversity and habitat.
I have found that climate change, drought, rabbits and introduced grasses have had an impact on the biodiversity in the bush on our land. However careful land management practices are turning this around gradually. Bushfire has been a threat in Nillumbik for as long as I have lived here, 50 years. It did not just start with Black Saturday. No one is safe on a day like Black Saturday so the idea of allowing a home which requires the clearing of a footy field's worth of bush and habitat for "fire safety" is ludicrous. A fire spotting ahead for kilometres illustrates how foolish this idea is. On a day like Black Saturday just leave home.
It seems that while there are clear legal frameworks regarding removal of native vegetation, council is happy to turn a blind eye to landholders who ignore the rules and trash native vegetation. If you want to live on land devoid of trees and wildlife why move to Nillumbik. It seems landholders can break the rules with impunity - receiving only a slap over the wrist with a soggy lettuce leaf for trashing native vegetation.
Some of the tracks need some work, understand that Nillumbik is responsible for a lot of green space. This makes it unique please do not allow the sale of any of these areas for development
Not sure what you mean by this qst
In our community every individual has an opinion on environmental issues. Every landowner wants to manage according to their own beliefs. These beliefs are diverse, divergent and

<p>often based on opinion and "unsubstantiated facts". We need a unifying vision and an education programme to align individuals with a set of principles and practices for our living environment. There is too much concentration on protecting and developing the "built environment" at the expense of enhancing and creating biodiversity in the living environment.</p> <p>The fact that we have rejected the existing GWMP and are looking for a "new GWMP" indicates our community's disconnect with the environment. This not only shows stress and division in the community but increases costs and delays any action on implementing any GSWMP.</p>
<p>Too many residents adopt the philosophy "it's my land I'll do what I damn well like". We are increasingly being surrounded with often illegal developments, additional houses on relatively small lots. These are a major threat to the Green Wedge. Preservation is not only about the natural landscape and environment, but also about the demands placed on those features by increasing demands on roads and other facilities and infrastructure. The additional human occupation created by these additional dwellings and hence additional human actions is a major threat to the bio-diversity, both floral and faunal. It also creates additional problems in case of an emergency - more people to evacuate equals more hazards.</p>
<p>Enormous number of Kangaroos. I was shocked driving home from night shift how many were on the road.</p> <p>Bushfire risk: I would like planned fire fuel reductions in the area.</p>
<p>I like that there are green reserves in the residential. Areas and this feels threatened.</p>
<p>Blackberries, introduced weeds, rabbits</p>
<p>The exponential rise in traffic, trucks and speeding cars down Haley's Gully road in the past few years, cutting through to Warrandyte. Typical to growth of the outer northern suburbs but the noise and deaths of wildlife are unbearable. Flashing signboards warning outsiders of wildlife hotspots moved around the area would be great, as would more speed traps or mobile speed cameras throughout the shire.</p> <p>Too many rabbits Indian Mynahs and foxes - need control by council.</p> <p>RUBBISH!! Illegal roadside dumping is out of control and what's with people throwing Maccas and KFC wrappers out the car window???</p>
<p>ongoing need to manage land; pest animals such as foxes & rabbits & weed control.</p> <p>Concern that wildlife not being adequately protected. Inappropriately high speed limits in wildlife areas; inadequate signage.</p> <p>Insufficient waste management of roadsides & inadequate bin supply in public places.</p> <p>Piecemeal approach to fire mitigation strategies</p>
<p>It is a constant challenge to combat the onset of weeds, blackberries influxes of rabbits, deer, foxes .</p> <p>However experiments by cluey neighbours who are environmentalists help us find ways to do this. And again we all work together which helps. Grants from DELWYP and Council has assisted us also to hire specialists to advise and assist. Council workers have walked our land with us to advise.Hope this continues.</p>
<p>Watching some of the areas being cleared that should have been protected as they contained orchids and animals that are rapidly declining mainly through ignorance or not caring.</p>
<p>There are frequent threats to the green wedge environment and in recent years Council has been a poor defender of it.</p>
<p>Every weed on my property has more rights than I do. The Council has taken an extremely harsh view on preserving the lives of every single living at all costs.</p>
<p>We still need to work on bushfire management and keep underbrush from creating fuel in bushfires. We need to keep roadside reserves well kept to avoid issues in bushfire scenarios</p>
<p>Fires and floods</p>

The continual need to protect the environmental values of Nillumbik from those who would like to weaken protection controls and regulations.
<p>a) Next door neighbour has a 'business' clearing other people's properties - but just stockpiles their rubbish on his own block, turning it into a tip.</p> <p>b) Rather than being sympathetic to the environment, council approves new houses or other buildings that destroy it</p>
If living in the Green Wedge was a " challenge", I wouldn't live here. I would have chosen to live in a town or suburb. The only "challenge" I experience is the constant threat to the Green Wedge and the on going need to fight for it's survival.
I live in the bush and try to care for the biodiversity as much as possible. I see the bush trashed by deer and this is getting worse. I find it challenging when people do not value the uniqueness of the biodiversity and wish to build without taking it into account. The threat of bushfire is something we live with and to evacuate or pack things in preparation is always unsettling each summer.
Invasive weeds, past erosion and other environmental damage.
Concern about excessive land clearing, inappropriate development, discarded rubbish along our roadways, excessive speed limits along rural roads, loss of wildlife habitat, inappropriate infrastructure development by State Government, ugly, industrial looking areas surrounding state government owned land along railway lines.
Over development by greedy money hungry developers who only care about making a quick buck. Our cultural heritage is threatened by this
The encroachment of development on these open spaces, and the slow destruction of native bush. (Illegal) Land clearing appears to be on the rise in this shire over the past 2 years.
Managing weeds and rabbits on our property
Danger of bushfire caused by man.
<p>The landscape is changing, once upon a time all around me I could see trees and now since the bushfire regulations have come in mature trees are being lost at a rapid rate and changing the look and feel of our towns.</p> <p>The overdevelopment of some areas again changes the landscape and loss of the valuable tree canopy.</p>
Bushfire
Over the decades there has been significant degrading of bushland due to inappropriate grazing and introduced domestic animals
Threat of bushfires and coping with hot, dry summers.
We have weeds taking over our property and I don't know where to start to get rid of them.
Bushfire is a given challenge, seasonally, for all of south-eastern Australia. We need to recognise this, and make adjustments as we learn more. Adjustments to the way we inhabit the higher risk areas, to the way we build homes, to the way we prepare ourselves for the season. Ourselves including households, and authorities (local government, VicRoads, Emergency Victoria etc.).
watching the loss of biodiversity through over-developement and ushfire paranoia
<p>Traffic issues crossing Warrandyte Bridge and Fitzsimmoms Lane round about.</p> <p>Spread of weeds from poorly managed private blocks.</p>
The loss of biodiversity and habitat. It just seems like it is not a priority for the current council with the dramatic destruction of the environment team. Absolute disgusting and shameful.
The challenge we face is disposing of leaves and branches to reduce the fire risk in summer. The new voucher system introduced recently meant that we were unable to dispose of as much leaf litter as we had in the past with free green drop off days at the municipal tip. This meant our fire risk was increased. We had to store raked leaves and branches in large garbage bags on our property over summer and wait until fire restrictions were lifted to burn the materials.

Too many houses and apartments being built, and council wanting to sell land
Weed management and management of non custodial roadside weeds. Roadside weeds are a Council failure.
If there had been an option of "none", I would have picked it, but there wasn't and I know with these surveys if you don't pick an option you are not allowed to complete the survey.
Too much clearing of bush land is a real problem as native species need sufficient area to live. Farming sometimes leads to environmental degradation and this must be prevented at all costs. The GW needs to be seen as an holistic whole with people, animals and landscape. This can be successfully achieved if some imagination is applied.
The decline of native wildlife due to habitat loss to human expansion and to introduced species.
Being in a shire of Melbourne that no longer has a council that supports the objectives of the majority of residents and doesn't wish to protect the green wedge status that this area has so long guarded. These areas are the lungs of Melbourne and we only get once chance to prevent them from being overdeveloped by inappropriate commercial, recreational and housing developers to fund council
Rapidly increasing local tree removal in suburban areas is destroying places such as Eltham and Research, and we are losing the once-special quality of the Shire.
This is the worst category. With every new person that is brought into the shire, with every bit of development that takes place, some other species, both fauna and flora, has to retreat and/or is pushed into extinction. Australia has the worst record in the world when it comes to extinction of species. Clearly, this development including population growth must stop.
The amount of litter across Nillumbik appears to have dramatically got worse over recent years, particularly road side littering. This is of great concern to me and I would welcome the opportunity to participate in regular clean ups. I have also noticed that Diamond Creek appears to suffer from a great many power spikes compared to my previous home in Blackburn. We would lose power (maybe only for a minute or 2) at least 2-3 times every week.
There is a sense that protection of the environment is contingent on the local government or council of the day and is constantly requiring defence by concerned citizens. If they were not acting to protest inappropriate development, land sell offs, illegal clearing and other acts which harm the environment the green wedge would not be nearly as green as it is today. This is saddening because government and council should be able to preserve environmental values (especially in a shire established for the express purpose of conservation) without being pressured by concerned people. There penalties for illegal clearing, and unwillingness to enforce penalties, are clearly failing in some areas as the benefit individuals gain is greater than the penalty they face.
Maintaining our small piece of remnant bush and nearby significant roadside area free of weeds.
Bushfire threats and preparations. Climate change and constant threats to preserving the Green Wedge by Councils supporting development projects and undermining Green Wedge protections through policies and actions.
Developers who destroy our native bush and prefer to bulldoze trees rather than design and build in a sustainable, smart and site-specific way. People who move into this community and cut down trees or promote weeds. People who are uneducated about fire risk and fire behaviour and want to raze everything. People who are uneducated about our biodiversity and it's vital importance, both locally and regionally
It is a travesty of justice when landowners destroy healthy, vital vegetation through out our shire, often illegally and without ramifications.
A lot of trees have been removed in the Green Wedge and there seems to be a lot of pressure for inappropriate development chipping away at the environment.

The development of many units within a 1km radius of Eltham township is having a detrimental effect on the landscape, and is causing much greater congestion re traffic. Every time a piece of reserve is sold off by council or subdivided, it's gone. For the very rare opportunities when land that supports reserve spaces / walking tracks, very little evidence of a proactive stance. For example, there was an opportunity for Council to re-purchase the land at corner of Bible and Grive Street a few years ago, which is on the edge of the walk through to Main Rd. Now there are four units squeezed onto the block, and the opportunity to have solidified the walk through is gone. This is not why people move to Nillumbik.

Can't afford for our dirt road to be sealed. Why are some sealed at councils expense and others have to pay for this basic amenity. It's filthy in Summer and so dangerous when it's rubbish bin day. Pot holes and ruts are a mixed blessing, slowing the traffic but wrecking the car. Solar panels and windows are covered in dust.

Weeds, feral species, waterway pollution, removal of natural vegetation, fire,

Having lived and experienced the devastation of black Saturday, bush fires always concern me in this area

Annual preparation for fire season and ensuring all is in readiness - especially as we age. Even though we have a fully developed fire plan and would not stay on a high danger day - we know we still need to be prepared for the possibility that we could be here when a fire comes through. The effort to clear gutters, rake and deal with debris etc is quite challenging.

Also maintenance of property (including removal of weeds in the bush) requires constant effort and vigilance. This also gets harder as we age.

We are disappointed that it seems harder to get clarity about initiatives such as solar power (that we could trust and rely on) than we had hoped. Having got solar for our hot water services we have tried with 3 providers to have them visit to sort out our capacity and options re solar power - and in all cases we found their slick sales people promise the earth but seem to have limited technical knowledge and have been unable to answer our questions all promising to get back to us and only one did (without clarity about what they could offer and seeming reluctance to have a technical person actually visit). Think some of this is distance and some of it is a lack of capacity/flexibility when we are not a standard suburban house.

The limitation of development to the established townships has retained the character and attractiveness of the Green Wedge which would otherwise would have been destroyed by unplanned and inappropriate developments. The biodiversity has not been destroyed but struggles with more developments and it is our responsibility to maintain it for future generations. There are still many substantial benefits from a broad biodiversity which we do not understand (until they are gone) The aboriginal fire practice of cold burns appeared to have successfully avoided major catastrophic bushfires whilst retaining the animal life and not destroying the bush though perhaps limiting the species. The controlled burns by the CFA and others do not seem to be as well managed and we should consider reverting to the original (aboriginal) techniques.

During the 32 years residing in the Green Wedge there have been numerous examples where individuals have been able to thwart environmental overlays and Council regulations to get whatever they want. Enforcement, in most cases appeared non-existent, or weak at best. Protection of the Green Wedge would be well served by a better level of enforcement for people who disregard local regulations.

I have lived in the Green Wedge for over 18 years, and have seen far too much disregard for the environment. Too much land clearing, residents allowed to clear their properties without proper consultation or needing to replace damaged vegetation in a timely manner. Too much subdivision of large plots than inevitably leads to more traffic, buildings, pollution, degradation of the land.

Fire is a worry. It seems negligent that North Warrandyte has no safe place, and no reliable way out.

<p>Infrastructure work by Council damaging trees. Council removing trees without permit. Council not avoiding and minimising vegetation removal. New residents not knowing native vegetation removal regulations.</p> <p>Increased use of introduced flora which is attracting introduced fauna. Reduction in nesting hollows for native fauna. Burning off causing unhealthy smokey days</p>
<p>Bushfire risks are frightening and certainly prevents me from visiting particular areas in the hotter months.</p>
<p>Inappropriate development applications have been approved in and adjacent to sensitive areas. E.g. development pressure along the Diamond Creek corridor, especially the are just north of Diamond Creek township. More needs to be done to ensure appropriate green (and flood) corridors are maintained.</p>
<p>I work specifically on water quality and platypus. Platypus are impacted by litter, this has been an ongoing issue in Diamond Creek. Water quality from some industrial areas is monitored by volunteers and is often poor.</p>
<p>Continuous fighting to halt and prevent habitat destruction by council, private developers and land owners.</p>
<p>Bushfires are not fun but you learn to deal with them.</p>
<p>Watching the bulldozing of an area renowned for native orchids. Observing the number of trees being removed for "progress."</p> <p>Having advertising signs erected without any consideration of the visual impact on the community.</p>
<p>Environmental management requires the preservation of native plant species. However to preserve the environment effectively it is essential to manage grazing pressure. This is impossible when kangaroos have increased well beyond pre-European levels. Degradation of the environment will continue to increase until effective controls are available in Nillumbik.</p>
<p>The issue of people buying bush blocks then clearing illegally or else illegally removing large old gum trees when they decided to extend dams, sheds, etc. Complaints to council about this usually seems to result in a slap on the wrist or a warning not to do this again. In the meantime a beautiful tree, possibly hundreds of years old has been lost forever.</p>
<p>A wonderful landscape with many hobbie farms - mainly horses and reduced bushland as a result.</p>
<p>The NGW is home to many special native plants and animals, and in many areas, the ecology is healthy. It is thus a precious area in a state that has the worst record in Australia for land clearing. The challenges include (1) pest animals (rabbits, deer, poorly-managed domestic animals), (2) pest plants and the ongoing introduction of more of them, (3) the unresolved conflict between (a) care of the natural bush and (b) its clearing for fire management, (4) the poor knowledge and appreciation of some Nillumbik people in nature, ecology and the critical role played by the NGW in these regards.</p>
<p>Continuing on from my comment in the "What do you like" question ... the people who live on these bush blocks that I walk past are landowners. I am puzzled by the notion put forward by people who call them selves PALS that "landowners" are only people who own cleared land. These people seem to resent the controls /overlays that were put in place to preserve the very environment they presumably moved to Nillumbik for.</p>
<p>Black Saturday. Seeing the casual disregard of some people towards the environment: rubbish dumping, illegal wood collection, 4WD damage etc.</p>
<p>Even though we love the bush we need to be able to create a defendable zone around our house. Too many restrictions to do this! Human life takes president. Happy with the land scape and don't want to see houses on ridge lines. Have building colours blend in too landscape. Let people have dogs in the bend of Islands.</p>
<p>Biodiversity is constantly under threat. Weed invasion, feral animals (foxes, deer, rabbits), lack of funding for authorities to manage their land, innapropriate fire regimes (either burning vegetation too hot, or not in a manner that promotes biodiversity. The threat of</p>

development, that slowly erodes the natural values that make the green wedge areas important for preservation of nature.
There is a challenge matching human uses with protecting biodiversity. Biodiversity should be a priority.
Litter is being chucked all over the sides of the roads. I walked for half a km along a shire road one Sunday and picked up a big bucket of litter- much of it alcohol cans and bottles, plastic bottles, plastic bags and drink containers. It is infuriating that people are not being educated to respect the environment and not trash it. We used to have a "Don't rubbish Australia campaign" and people were fined for littering. As we take in huge numbers of people coming from countries where there is appalling rubbishing of the environment, we desperately need to raise awareness here that our environment is very precious and is Not to be covered in litter. The same with council overuse of poisons and tree felling.
I am unable to clear dead trees from my land. This is a fire hazard putting my family at risk. This is absurd. I am left with no other alternative than to risk mine and my families lives by staying to defend my home in the event of a bushfire. Flora and fauna are valued as more important than the lives and well being of my family,
Living on a bush block having Ausnet needing to annually access property to assess and then trim trees within required metres of power line - which runs right through 12 acre property - resulting in damage to surrounding flora. Poor mobile phone reception. Regular scheduled power outages - approx 5-10 per year.
There is too much weight given to business as profits at the expense of the environment. The word "greenie" is used in a very hurtful and derogatory way by many locals when I mention conservation of the Green Wedge. Just because these farmers and businesses are in the green wedge it does not give them the right to degrade the environment by saying "let the landowners decide what is best for the green wedge".
What used to be pristine Bush land now has rubbish and human intervention all through it
Living in a high risk bush fire area is at times stressful, however I believe that it is a risk worth living with. It is also upsetting to see the amount of wildlife hit by cars on our roads.
The gradual erosion of The Wedge as further development and increased subdivision encroach on the natural spaces.
Bushfire is a real risk for all of us living in the area. We are told to live here at our own risk and that it is up to us to take responsibility for our own safety. If a road has a dangerous pot hole in a poorly lit area does it get fixed or simply drivers beware? No, governing bodies assume some responsibility for the safety of the wider community. More needs to be done mitigate bushfire risk across the green wedge and throughout Nillumbik.
Weeds and feral animals. Council has information out about these, but requirements for landowners to deal with problems on their land are not enforced at all. Neighbours suffer from neighbourhood inaction, it's impossible to deal with weeds and rabbits on a single property basis.
Weed control along the Yarra River is an ongoing issue that is threatening the biodiversity and landscape values.
We were affected personally by the bush fires and volunteered afterwards through Red Cross with family's to support them back onto their feet. We live on land still and face the prospect of fires every year, but it would never move us.
I work in the emergency management area and I was involved in the response to Black Saturday and many other fire events. The environment whilst beautiful brings with it the consequences fire, storm damage and the like.
2009 bushfire
We live in a bush fire area and all residents are in bushfire aware, most belong to a fireguard group. We accept that this is one of the challenges we face and make appropriate and safe

plans to manage this aspect of living in the bush.
As above development from surrounding Shires eroding our way of life in Nillumbik. Again the destruction of 3054 trees in Plenty and again in Yarrambat. A freeway right down the middle. People in the RCZ protected the environment, we did not want a Maroondah Highway in our beautiful Shire, but we have one now, and unfortunately the Council did not resist Vic Roads with their plans - I sat on a Flora and Fauna Forum for 1 year and made suggestions, with 4 other community members, no one suggestion was taken up. The CEO at a meeting with our community, requested Vic Roads to look at greening up the realignment - Vic Roads did not take any notice. Trees were cut down without a Fauna Report - kangaroos, possums habitat were destroyed. Nest boxes were put up 6 weeks after the trees were cut down. Sadly there are two standard one for the bureaucrats and one for the residents who try and do the right thing in the GW Shire.
Gradual loss of environmental values. Degradation, destruction and development activities. Road side vegetation values lost by maintenance processes and weed intrusion.
I am worried about any proposed changes to the the way enviromental issues may be challenged in the future. The Green Wedge is sacrosanct and should not be altered inany way, shape or form
Loss of Environmental Values. Destruction, deterioration and development.
During bushfire season we have to be very mindful of how we manage our animals and ensure we plan well in advance of exit routes.
The Messmate stringybark is dying out due to climate change, yellow box ttaking ascendancy. Feral deer are a big problem
Following the bushfires of Black Saturday, I worry during hot windy days. We keep our property relatively free of debris. I worry that I will be forced to loose my paddocks to trees which will increase my risk. We have a lovely balance of paddocks and trees which is why we purchased and we would love to keep our place exactly as we bought it.
Traffic needs to be diverted away from the local roads and the ring road needs to be completed
Increased residential development into fire prone areas has lead to unrealistic expectations being expected of authorities such as fire brigades, SES, water supplies and road maintenance.
My main concern is fears of over development and removal of native plants and trees. Every person I've ever talked to who's visited Hurstbridge not only remember the heritage buildings, but the native forests, bush walks and creek...I'm very concerned about the proposed plans to link Diamond Creek (which once upon a time, used to have similar building aesthetics and nature). I feel more funding needs to be put into native tree replanting, rubbish clean up's and animal protection
Too many non-native species of plants & flowers.
Managing the fire risk. But again, most agree this is the price you pay for living in a green wedge
We are experiencing great challenges in loss of vegetation on our block because of deer, rabbits and large numbers of kangaroos. A lower rainfall makes it harder to revegetate bush or even grow a garden. We rely on tanks and a small dam for our water. Obviously a drier and hotter summer means danger from bush fires and preparation is important as summer approaches.
Increase developments and unauthorised buildings are detrimental to the green wedge. New subdivisions heading to hobby farms that are not managed are damaging to the land and detrimental to conservation of the bush.
Ultimate change, increased pressure from development and inappropriate sub-division, increase the fragility of the environment and make the task of conservation more difficult.

Keeping weeds under control and balance with fire risk
Biodiversity utilities
> Bushfire requires serious preparation & planning > Maintaining & improving the biodiversity is an ongoing challenge with the need for effective education & assistance. All requires active participation & input from council.
The increasing threat from developers is a constant challenge. In the time I have lived here (17 years) more & more land has been subdivided & fences have been erected. Bush has been lost. I see the environmental challenges as the most significant challenge.
> Environmental values are not always understood or appreciated in broader sense. Environment often comes last in decisions about planning & development. > Bushfire risk is high in Bend of Islands - the need to take personal responsibility for my own safety.
Main challenges are introduced weeds - identifying them learning how to eradicate them, planting better and indigenous plants in their place. and biggest challenge is to manage land/ home for the ever-present bushfire danger. Our fireguard groups help spread knowledge and risk community is good.
A recent proposed development, rejected by Council, was a threat to the character of the neighbourhood and the wellbeing of residents.
Challenge from distraction of flora & fauna by motorbikes or uneducated or ignorant people!
The changes are very noisy
Black Saturday, Flooding, Wind.
Since it gets hot lots of animals are going through the houses. I have had a lot of snakes in my backyard. And I have also seen a few kangaroos jumping up the road and going into the bush. 1 time when I was in the bush there was a kangaroo and it was going to where I was so I had to run inside. :)
Bushfires in Kinglake. Closing Bolton st made the traffic really bad
Sometimes (not often) in summer there are bushfires
Some environmental challenges are the dangers of living near bushes because of the fires. Most parts are pretty green but some parts have dead grass. Graffiti is also a big problem.
Bushfires and floods
unsure
Black Saturday
strong rain and because of the hills people's houses at the bottom of the hill some times gets water in it
little floods, strong rain
Since I live in the bush area, we have to be mindful of the heat, winds, everything. It can be a bit scary but it's just to keep you safe.
rubbish
It may be dangerous when there is really hot weather this could be a risk of bushfire
I have experienced people's houses getting flooded, Bushfires, in summer there are a lot of big bushfires, and there are a lot of trees falling down and wrecking power lines.
Weather, and fires. Once my sister had to call 000 because my neighbour's house caught on fire from a too hot toaster and the weather can be really warm or super cold.
They are making new roads and housing estates and they are making the land look so ugly and it makes the land look like the city which is not very good.
Although we are living in the green wedge some parts have been deprived of trees and other native plants and animals. Nowadays in the green wedge a lot of housing development is going on, many units are rented and since the green wedge is an amazing place to live lots of people want to buy houses here. This is troubling for the native trees and plants that are

cut down to make way for the developments. We are now at risk of over development.
I used to live in the Nillumbik community and there were a lot of bush fires during to summers. It was very hard to take care of everything, protect everything and to keep track of everything. My family and I moved to Rosanna because its an easier life, less bush fires and its easier to get around Melbourne with public transport and lots of different ways.
Weeding to preserve and manage the bush can be hard work but worth the effort. Bushfire protection s an ever-present challenge, but each ear we make improvements and learn more survival skill.s
Watching the continuing destruction of habit with new constructions on subdivisions also on the roadside verges when they are slashed. This also encourages weeds which are ever increasing. Ongoing education of new councillors and Council staff of the Suza Bend of Islands Conservation zone.
The bend of islands zoning provides protection for the flora & fauna but the areas across the wedge are gradually and systematically losing environmental values by development, sub division and land uses. The challenge is to get council to implement & enforce protection of environmental values.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Getting rid of weeds, pests - rabbits fences, deer > Helped by neighbours, Landcare, council. > People who don't care about it all we offer help & they usually like this.
The lack infrastructure above (for ppl to get out quickly if there is a fire) and the lack of an agreed plan to properly manage the bushfire risk
Powerlines cut through some of the areas
The disregard of the natural bush land and it' animals
There is a constant threat to the values that many love about the green wedge and if vegetation laws are relaxed in protecting these areas, the threat will increase. Inappropriate development and illegal clearing also continues to degrade these values.
There is continual degradation of the native bush with the population and economic pressures. This has noticeably reduced the wildlife and changed the species distribution. We used to see koalas on or near our block but not for years now. Similar pressures are on the whole range of other endangered fauna and flora which are nowhere near as well known. The Green Wedges are the lungs of Melbourne but will due out at this rate.
VicRoads are gradually impacting on our area urbanising with little regard for residents
growing old in a fire hazard area
I am extremely disheartened when I witness removal and destruction of native vegetation which, once destroyed, will never be able to return to its natural state. I moved to Nillumbik because I value and understand the importance of our natural environment to not only the native animals which rely on it for life, but for the health and wellbeing of Melbournians.
It is difficult dealing with people in Nillumbik who don't appreciate the importance of the environment and want it developed. The threat of bushfire is a constant challenge particularly in the context of climate change.
not a safe region to evacuate in a hurry eg - bushfire
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foxes 2. Indian Mynas 3. The amount of weeds along the roadsides especially angled onion, oxalis. 4. Weedy plants that are in peoples gardens eg tradescantia, blue periwinkle, cape weed
It is alarming to see areas of land cleared in the name of bushfire awareness. People are still removing undergrowth and trees - this will impact on bird and insect populations. Much of the clearing activities are not well considered and are ill informed and will have other side effects such as erosion especially if the land is used for grazing. People are clearing areas of road reserve near there entrances and mulching. According to eye witness accounts, It was the mulch from the Christmas tree farm that greatly contributed to the ember attack at

Strathewen. People are also choosing to mulch there gardens. Mulch is only effective when it is damp - after a drought and water restrictions, it isn't. There is a lack of understanding about native grasses too, lomandra is pulled out and agapanthus planted. A classic scenario was the incident when the poa lab that surrounded the Panton Hill oval was poisoned, it was always green from the watering of the oval, weeds soon established themselves in its stead.
Wildlife does not have a vote. The Green Wedge is a priceless resource which if lost is lost forever
weed invasion, pests and environmental degradation
bushfire hazards some silly restrictions on removal of vegetation in past. use of trailbikes causing erosion and noise pollution. Often experienced power blackouts
Bushfire hazards some silly restrictions on removal of vegetation in past. Use of trail trailbikes causing erosion and noise pollution. Other experienced power blackouts
Weed invasion, feral animals and rouge domestic dogs all impact on our property and many properties in Nillumbik.
No challenges to myself personally .
Dust is a problem in summer as our road is unmade. (Shaftesbury Ave). Bushfire is always a potential threat that we all have to come to terms with. Total lack of public transport to St Andrews is an ongoing problem. Lack of most utilities to our community means that we all have to be very resourceful.
yan yeon reservoir a major Bush fire hazard
No mains water, although our neighbors have access to it.
Poor Drainage and Planning Outcomes have increased erosion. Rabbits & Other Feral Animals - No Eradication Solution for environmental pests.
As stated we have lost most of our outlooks and views have been destroyed due to housing developments that appear to be able to conduct slash and burn on a scale i have never seen before in what is purported to be a rural environment.
Nillumbik is a conservation shire and as such much have protection of the Green Wedge and biodiversity as a primary strategic focus. We should improve and build on what we've got. Once it's gone, it's gone. Stop the nibbling, where selfish landowners, want to subdivide their land for pecuniary interest reasons and no consideration for the future community good in the Green Wedge. We need to stop unnecessary vegetation clearing. Stop the urban sprawl. Stop the urbanisation, degradation and fragmentation of our natural environment!
lack of bush
threat of bushfires
No more green waste drop off in a high risk bushfire area is a problem. We live on quite a large block so this means we have alot of green waste to get rid of. Cost of the Tip fees are very expensive and I have noticed alot of dumping of building waste because of this. Support with more information in your letter box about bushfire season as not everyone can attend the meetings.
The council does not do enough to ensure residents protection from bushfires. Road sides are not maintained, large tree branches hang over the road.
NBN issues need to be addressed in Hurstbridge. One node for a huge area where i live is insufficient.
Threat of bushfires. The CFAs deserve every support. Increasing subdivision and building threatens the green wedge environment in my neighbourhood. We moved here from an inner suburb and don't want to be built out again.
Understorey degradation from grazing. Unmanaged eucalypt regeneration reulting in same-aged stands with few older trees and no nest hollows. The only conservation strategy was written by an Architect and Developer - "Every euc is sacred, every euc is God. You bend over forwards, we'll give you a prod". This suited his philosophy of "hang on the shirtails of Alastair Knox and Gordon Ford and make a killing". There has not been an experienced

Plant Ecologist in the Council since 1987 when that bloke wrote "Live Local, Plant Local". Even he got it wrong though, including eucalypts in the list.
Having areas of trees removed for development is a big concern and challenge to see in this beautiful area.
The competing needs of agriculture, residential development and native flora and fauna are hard to balance. Climate change presents further new challenges. The ever present risk of bushfires has affected us too.
Neighbours clearfelling native bushland and Council turning a blind eye.
Council's neglect to protect our unique natural vegetation by allowing excessive vegetation clearance and inadequate control/policing.
As above
Landcare always struck the fear of god in anyone that was not involved. About 30 years ago a landcare president was going around to local homes. He had overlays over all our properties, he must have been working very closely with council. I think his dream was dissolved with the fall of c101 and other proposals. If pals had not started it would have been a minority disaster. After the bushfires we had one landcare member photographing our properties and dobbing us in to council as we tried to clean up the mess. Landcare had become a nightmare and was fully supported by council. Thank goodness for our new councillors I can't believe that farmers are charged for water but I suppose they are not wanted in the green wedge
I am concerned about the eroding of the planning process within the shire. I had no issues with the alleged spectre of the proposed changes to the planning process within the shire. I find it amazing that some people who live in the shire are in a battle with nature like it is something that needs to be controlled. We must protect what is left of the natural areas of the shire, not allow the degradation of these areas.
Not enough sufficient burning off and preparing for fires; major housing construction destroying our semi-rural feel. Safety on Main Rd Wattle Glen (station) for children crossing road (roundabout not safe for kids to cross).
The threat of sub-division. The idea that this land would be better used for housing. No thanks.
Deer
Endless pressure from residents of the Green Wedge to subdivide, develop and water-down environmental controls.
Destruction of trees and plants for building; increasing traffic congestion
Climate change is having a significant effect on remnant populations of flora and the incursion of traffic and activity from the adjacent growth corridors on the wild life. The control of weed species from dumping waste and garbage is considerable. Road verges that are critical to the survival of many species are very much at risk. Little is done to maintain them or to moderate the vast increase in through traffic.
Dismantling of the council environment team typical of the disregard of the councillors for the environment
I am concerned about the threat, and impact, of bushfires in the Shire. Black Saturday really made me aware of how difficult it would be to get out of Eltham (with two main routes - Bridge St towards Greensborough) and Fitzsimons Lane across to Templestowe - out of Eltham if a fire was approaching from anywhere from the north through to the east of Eltham). One only has to see the amount of traffic on local roads at peak times to realise how traffic would be locked in the event of a bushfire. Few people would get able to get out of Eltham.
Through both my personal and professional experience (over 20yrs) I am constantly being challenged by the issues that surround new families moving into acreage properties that in

<p>general have good intentions but a vast lack of knowledge about how to care for the property they have purchased and soon become overwhelmed on the costs involved on weed control, fencing and the correct use for their block. As the land in our shire varies so much within 100s of meters and the orientation of the land.</p> <p>What worries me the most is how quickly certain weeds can take over a property eg Burgen (Tea Tree) Broad leaf weeds and woody weeds if not managed properly from day one, this also quickly affects the neighbouring properties who might be managing their land properly but are then compromised with increased costs to repair damage from the other neighbours.</p>
The difficulty in preserving intact environments with a complete range of indigenous plant communities.
We maintain a detailed fire plan, and as each fire season approaches make preparations to defend our home. While leaving is the safest option, the limitations placed on leaving by the existence of only two bridges, has been outstripped by residential development.
Degradation of the environment, encroachment on green space and bushland, littering
Maintaining our property to balance bushfire risk management and maintaining the natural environment and reducing our impact on it is time consuming and occupies most weekends.
<p>Often people don't know (or care) about weeds such as blackberries. So all the work I do to keep them at bay (and the money I spend) is null and void because my neighbours don't do the same.</p> <p>Same with vermin., I can bait rabbits all I like but then neighbours don't so it's useless. Community education is required.</p>
The shire needs to work more as a community.
The high density development along Main Road is resulting in the loss of native vegetation. Developers are told which trees they are not allowed to chop down but there are insufficient penalties for the loss of these trees. Development is increasing the bushfire risk for all residents in our community as our local roads are not sufficient for people trying to safely escape during an extreme weather event. Leaving early is not always an option as some bushfire emergencies occur without prior warning, as fires in SW Victoria and NSW indicate.
Every day I see residents and businesses removing trees, leaving rubbish around and lights on, on which impact negatively on our wildlife. Also people running cattle and horses in sensitive bushland areas are ruining the biodiversity of those areas. There is a house on the Diamond Creek in Hurstbridge piling up all kinds of polluting rubbish and allowing it to spill over the creek bank, cars are propped up for work and there is no doubt oil seeping into the groundwater, then into the creek. People who live and work here must learn about how they impact on their environment and what they can do to reduce those impacts before everything is gone. I don't want to live in a traditional suburban neighbourhood.
Proliferation of weed species, particularly along waterways.
Keeping developers from destroying our neighbourhoods from over development and greed.
Lack of services, in particular the poor telephone / internet. Still waiting for NBN.....
<p>The challenge is from a few landowners, apparently represented by a few councillors, who do not understand the concept of stewardship in regard to their ownership of land.</p> <p>The land should be passed on in better condition than its present condition. Biodiversity in the shire is in decline. Even today, decision makers in government and land management too often fail to fully consider the impacts of their actions on biodiversity - and are routinely not required to do so. (Quote from DELWP Biodiversity - 2037.) Loss of native vegetation is mainly the result of activities and entitled uses that are outside the regulatory framework. (Quote ditto.)</p>
dealing in a humane way with feral animals, foxes, rats, Indian Minors, (council should loan out traps for the minors) rabbits, deer. needing to develop soil and plant indigenous native plants -Council should offer free indigenous plants each year like Marrondah
I have had one house burn down in the 2009 bushfire and so in order for that not to be so

<p>devastating next time, given that bushfire is a part of the St Andrews history, I hope that Council and others involved with the management of the Green Wedge institute sensible policies, recognising that some species of native plants are hazardous.</p> <p>With regard to tourism, further policies should be put in place to protect our bush from littering by passing tourist traffic which is becoming a noticeable problem.</p>
New people coming in and indiscriminate clearing.
<p>Absurd suggested amendments about land management created a furore two years ago, when council seriously considered amendments that would have killed people in the next bushfire event. Thankfully that was defeated by common-sense and people-power, but Council continues to abrogate responsibility for pre-emptive burns of roadsides and reserves, putting the onus on volunteer organisations and making the paperwork as onerous as possible.</p>
<p>We are proudly part of a local land care group and take enormous gratification in being part of restoring our native public park areas such as Watery Gully at Wattle Glen.</p> <p>Bush fire risk is ongoing. Have we adequate resources in light of increased fire risk?</p>
Risk of bushfires and poor options for leaving via the warrandyte bridge
<p>Continual threats to species. For example the number of orchid species is dramatically declining. In part this is due to climate change, but also to development. The large number of road kills of birds and animals due to volume and speed of traffic and increasing population and number of roads. Introduction of deer to our forests and reserves and state land. Pressure for inappropriate developments such as distilleries and hotels and more equestrian centres in the rural conservation zones</p>
Bush fire is the one that worries me
<p>After the fires in 2009 I experienced loss and anxiety. I felt conflicted about how the bushfire risks could be managed and attended the public meetings held in Warrandyte which were very informative and helpful.</p> <p>On climate - I have been on my property for nearly 35 years and have seen the effects of changing weather patterns and also the effect of feral animals on the flora and fauna. Deer are a particular problem now causing both physical damage and road accidents.</p> <p>I have a growing sense that development is encroaching on the Green Wedge and the pressure has exponentially increased in the last year or so. The rubbish on our local roads has increased as has the wear and tear on the road surfaces. Truck and semi trailers that are simply too large for our country roads are damaging our roundabouts and have even become unable to move causing traffic jams.</p>
Not so much a challenge but troubled by the increase in density of housing causing more traffic more trees and natural vegetation being removed.
The high risk of bushfires in the summer months
realistic management of the environment in relation to bush fire safety for all communities.
There are deer that damage the bush and our garden. There is the threat of bushfire but we accept that. Weeds are a problem in the bush.
Concerned about the CFA tree clearing allowances.
<p>Up to a few years ago my home was near a natural bush block full of birds and native animals. A developer bought the land and although it is still zoned RCZ, he decided to pull out trees by their roots and immediately burn the evidence and all the understorey of bushes and hedges. No longer do I see wombats, echidnas who foraged regularly in my backyard or the many small birds such as red tail finches, pardalot and other tiny birds that relied on the understorey for protection. It has become a barren wasteland full of weeds, no topsoil so when it rains it gushes down the steep hill onto the road and flooding into people's homes and washing whatever topsoil may have been left by the bulldozer. What you could describe as environmental vandalism. My concern is that the Green Wedge Management Plan is strengthened not weakened by this current review.</p>
In hot months we must always be bushfire ready and aware. Potential downgrading of the

Green Wedge creates threat to our environment so we must always be aware of what is happening at regulatory areas. Weed invasion from poorly maintained pastures adjacent to the area in which we live is a concern. Feral animals such as pigs and deer form a threat to the area. Trail bike riders form a threat to the area
I do not like the changes which are occurring in Hurstbridge and it's environs
Some GW people tried to pretend that Nillumbik is an island, ignoring this wider vegetation type throughout Victoria. Because a plant is found in only 2-3 areas of Nillumbik is NOT an indication of that plants rarity when often it is plentiful throughout the rest of Victoria. CO2 is the lifeline of all plant life. Bush fires are a ongoing threat to life and property in Nillumbik and must be a consideration with every planning decision, social-economic, environmental and regulatory
Bushfires
Not enough open space and trees and to many cars, buildings and people. We need our Green Wedge to be protected and made livable for future generations. Panton Hill Bushland Reserves need to be protected and created just for bushwalkers and animals and not horses and bike riders.
There are no challenges. We love it as it is. The area needs to be protected to ensure its long term survival.
The control of adverse impacts on the the indigenous flora and fauna such as inappropriate clearing, invasive weeds, uncontrolled dogs and cats, unrestricted horse riding
Annual threat of bushfires
My personal environmental challenge is maintaining the integrity of the bushland and its biodiversity with the continuing threat of not only climate change, but also that of increasing feral animal destruction and the lack of understanding by many landholders of the intricacies of living sustainably with the responsibility of caring for and maintaining the viability of all land based uses, whether it be rural farming or bushland. We are at best caretakers/custodians of this place/earth for future generations - that is the real challenge.
The wonderful biodiversity is under continual challenge from would-be developers and landowners who do not understand its vale, as well as invasion by feral species
Roadside rubbish management doesn't exist, the rubbish along the main roads in Eltham / Diamond Creek/ wattleglen and Hurstbridge is disgusting. Also the lack of weed and garden maintenance is also a problem , weeds around concrete islands at traffic intersections and gutters trap rubbish , a lot of road side gutter drains are full of weeds soil and rubbish , I'm all for a green wedge environment but we do need to pay attention to the clean weed and rubbish free streets. Graffiti in some areas as in all councils is a concern as well .
The black Saturday fires were the biggest challenge of my life. I have learnt a lot about resilience, community, compassion, the bush, being involved, being active and alert. The other biggest challenge is the concerns around over-development of our shire. I worry that the community are not consulted about development in the areas that they live.
Weeds and rubbish / pollution
Bushfire. Allowing enough defendable space around ones home. Allowing people to feel safe in the environment they live.
The fact that the current council think it is ok to curtail to developers. I can only imagine it is so they can further there own career. Councils need to be more representative of the whole shire!
Landowners not credited with the ability to look after and respect our land
As a founding member of our local Landcare group I/we are constantly on 'high alert' to the newest members of our community who are unaware of the fact that ownership involves responsibilities as well as rights. That they can't and shouldn't regard their land as a place

where they can do entirely with as they wish when it comes to massive clearing for their 'bushfire safety', or clearing for their child's pony, a 5-10 year plan which has irreversible environmentally damaging consequences . Also educating landholders about how to live harmoniously in their environment and not introducing pest plant species which eventually invade the bushland is an ongoing battle. We need to improve on what we have in our shire because once destroyed it can't be bought back.

The fact that the current council think it is ok to curtail to developers. I can only imagine it is so they can further there own career. Councils need to be more representative of the whole shire!

Utilities

1. SPAusnet - almost monthly scheduled maintenance power outages for a day typically 8.00 - 4.30pm. Leaves us without running water, phone, Internet, heating, cooling.

Occassionly caught out due to busy lifestyle if we miss the notification as in mid shower.

Seem to fall mostly on my wife's one day off a week lately which means she can't do the washing, house cleaning etc

Internet providers

Slow internet speeds due to distance from nearest exchange (as claimed by current provider Optus, another reason cited was that Telstra have preference to better lines at exchange?)

Ever declining amount and ecological value of natural bush land in the shire

When I first came to Kangaroo Ground there very few birds, (because of DDT), I don't remember any kangaroos and no deer. You were able to clear kunzea and other trees. There was open country. With the change in environmental laws, the removal of trees, especially kunzea at one stage, and the wonderful environment that the landowners provided, kangaroos, deer, snakes and rabbits have multiplied to plaque proportions. The bush that is between my place and Warrandyte is so thick that fire is a real worry. I try to keep my house clear, although my neighbour has planted trees leading right up to my house. I had 4 snakes in 35 years near the house because of my policy to keep open paddocks near my house. My neighbour's policy of long grass and trees has meant 4 snakes on my verandahs in the last 3 years. With grand children coming to my house this is a worry. I am not supposed to kill them!!

I am witnessing a reduction of council support to the management of our remnant vegetation. Funding is gradually being reduced for maintenance of our local reserve - Yarramie Reserve - this is not only eroding the value of the reserve and the ability to maintain or improve the biodiversity but also damaging the moral of the Friends group. The councils reduction in staff to manage environmental and climate change responses is also a problem. The council says the right words and the employees are all very dedicated but over stretched. The council could be doing much more in terms of encouraging residences and businesses to reduce energy consumption, bulk buy solar panels. I know the council is running some programs but a lot is left to environmental groups - I am a member of one such group.

We are also under threat from the wild deer. One has be seen in Thompson Crescent Research and I have found hoof prints on a number of occasions. It has damaged the indigenous bush that I have many years trying to get to grow back and it is a threat to the beautiful ground orchids, including Spider Orchids that I now have growing on my property and on the road side/nature strip.

As there is more development the pressure on landowners from weeds and feral animals such as cats has increased. Then there is the noise of unrestricted trail bike use and the degradation of road reserves and crown land by horse riders.

* The constant push by council to re-vegetate open, pasture country. * The failure to value grazing land versus vegetated areas. * The lack of appreciation for the work small property owners do to sustain the Green Wedge by managing their properties - both involving considerable time and cost. * The constant threat of bushfire. * Roadside fuel loads

I have been very concerned by moves by local govt. to water down protection for the green wedge
An environmental challenge is having to witness, on a daily basis, the cutting down of established mature gum trees on residential land. Seeing the tree canopy disappear either to make room for large, inappropriate development or simply because some residents don't want a tree in their garden.
<p>I get concerned that we are not supposed to cut down dead trees which I find quite dangerous not only in regards to them falling over but that they give more fuel for fires. I would also like to see slashing become compulsory during summer as it is in other areas of the state.</p> <p>I am also concerned about the number of kangaroos in the area that are constantly venturing onto the roads especially during the times of the year when feed is low so they come closer to the road side to eat the grass. I've rescued two joeys from pouches of dead mum kangaroos over the last 18 months that have been left on the side of the road after being hit and its not a nice experience (especially when they have to be put-down by the vet due to their injuries). Perhaps an humane cull is required to get the numbers back down a bit. Dumping of rubbish.</p>
we need to protect what we love about living here. We are "The Green Wedge Shire" and "The Lungs of Melbourne". We are a conservation shire with protection of the Green Wedge and biodiversity as our primary strategic focus. We need to IMPROVE and build on what we've got. Once it's gone, it's gone forever. Stop the nibbling. Stop unnecessary vegetation clearing. Stop the urban sprawl. Stop the urbanisation, degradation and fragmentation of our natural environment. Arrest population growth and traffic congestion. Let's protect the Green Wedge, biodiversity, habitat for wildlife, our beautiful environment and landscapes. Improve our waterways. Biodiversity is but a dream unless we actually have a GWMP that stops its destruction. Let's learn to look after our environment better. Let's build environmentally sustainable communities. Let's create opportunities to teach our kids & grandkids to appreciate and protect our beautiful natural environment. Let's learn from the ancient aboriginal ways of managing the land to promote food production for all of biodiversity, and of reducing the fire risk. Let's lead the way in Nillumbik. Let's pass on a healthy environment to our kids, rather than a degraded one.
There needs to be constant vigilance to guard against invasion of weed species. Also proper management to maintain the biodiversity we have now or to improve it.
The road side vegetation has increased since Black Saturday's fire, it's so thick & impenetrable in places along Strathewen Road.
fear of and risk of fire. Weed control. rabbits
Bushfires are a major concern in the area. The area has a long history of bushfires and they are a part of the landscape. The concern is more about when external interference prevents land owners from looking after their land and minimising the effects of bushfires.
The fire risks and being not allowed to management without a lot of paperwork
The over-development! What a shame that we continue to have to fight to keep Eltham a suburb that was so iconic and symbolic of nature, trees, green.
The building of multi units on previous single family sites. More traffic is only one of tthe problems.
There is increasing pressure to subdivide residential blocks for short term gain, crowding the area with housing that has been developed and built with an equally short term mindset. It destroys the trees for which Nillumbik is known, increases traffic congestion and puts further pressure on safe places for wildlife.
We live near the main shops in Eltham. Over the last five years, we have seen ugly development in our street and so much vegetation removed. It saddens us and it seems to be encouraged by the council planning department.
Overzealous and unrealistic demands on landscape management , have made it almost

impossible to achieve an appropriate balance between this and bushfire safety...
Concern that the green wedge will be changed by council and so we will lose the protection the green wedge provides the area including for native animals and plants.
Not enough done in terms of bushfire prevention. Works are mentioned, but nothing happens. These need to be done pro-actively prior to summer.
Protecting what we love about living here. We are the "The Green Wedge Shire", one of the last intact Green Wedges left. We are the 'lungs of Melbourne'. We should be a conservation shire with protection of the Green Wedge and biodiversity as our primary strategic focus. We need to improve and build on what we have as once it's gone, it's gone forever. We need to stop the chipping away at our native vegetation, stop unnecessary clearing and inappropriate development and limit the urban sprawl. Stop the urbanisation, degradation and fragmentation of our natural environment. Limit population growth and traffic congestion. We need to protect the Green Wedge, its biodiversity, its habitat for wildlife and this beautiful environment and landscapes. We need to improve our waterways by minimising rubbish and pollution washing into them. Biodiversity is lost if we don't stop the destruction of the native vegetation and actually have a Green Wedge Management Plan that protects it. We need to look after our environment better and build environmentally sustainable communities that educate people to appreciate, protect and preserve our natural environment. Fire danger should not be an excuse to clear and chop down our native vegetation. Put less people in areas of high fire risk and manage our the land by learning the ancient aboriginal ways of living in harmony with the environment. Rather than slash and burn, we need to encourage an environmentally sensitive approach to managing our bush fire risk.
I have found that a lot of new developments are being built which is increasing traffic and people and destroying the feel of Eltham and the green wedge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining sound biodiversity, weed management, rabbit & fox control and now deer. - Bushfires always a threat. - No more road barriers/guards, as not needed, waste of money. Ugly and they trap wildlife.
'Bushfire Challenge: - Inadequate fuel burn - Strategies and implementation
To see yet another high rise apartment building going up alongside roads that are already a challenge to drive along because of all day parking allowed on both sides of the road is upsetting and dangerous. When this involves the felling of more trees - this is further upsetting.
The area feels as if it is getting hotter and dryer leading to increased concern regarding bush fire risk. This is exacerbated by the restriction on clearing roadside fuel loads. The failure to value grazing land as part of the whole that makes up the Green Wedge experience and failure to recognise the benefits of the work undertaken by small property owners to maintain and enhance their land.
Developers wrecking the essence of Nillumbik for financial gain
The fact that we have to refer to the 'protection' of the green wedge constantly should be unnecessary. The Green Wedge is legislated by 2 houses of parliament and should remain without the constant threat of development and subdivision.
Burnt out on black Saturday. Children not well supported after the event.
It is shattering to see so many old trees lopped and open land being taken up to make way for roads and roadworks Where will the birds and animals go?
Feel that the Green wedge is under threat and that while progress has been made in improved diversity in the area it is under threat from those who want to over develop the green wedge. Spread of weeds and feral animals including deer, stray cats and dogs as well as use of horses in some sensitive tracks is of concern
Pressure on bushland, due to private property ownership being able to clear, etc; horse tracks in pristine bushland. Off road bikes riding on tracks. Native wildlife is under pressure, as well as native plants. It is gut wrenching to see this being impacted on.

Increased pressure for removal of native trees that are so important to the landscape values of the municipality. Achieving the balance between protection from fire and protection of biodiversity values as addressed in the recommendations of the Bushfire Royal Commission and as subsequently addressed in the State Government's Bushfire Management Overlay. Lack of strategic planning by the Nillumbik Shire Council to address this issue.

I am very happy to live with an awareness of bush fire dangers and be prepared to act independantly to leave when I need to. To pay higher insurances because the environment is worth saving. People who live in the green wedge have similar values.

'A. The costs (time, energy & money) of responding to Council actions reflecting a seeming lack of understanding of the purpose of the Green Wedge, its role in this GW Shire and the value many residents ascribe to it:

For example:

Ø This council, in its consultation "Draft Nillumbik Shire Plan 2017-21", FORGOT about the GW; the only reference to the GW in the draft was in its description of the shire; it made no reference to the Green Wedge in its Goals, Strategic Objectives, Strategic Objective Indicators, Strategies or Priority Actions. This omission was explained as "an oversight"! How could a GW Council forget to incorporate the 91% of our GW shire area into its plans? How could the councillors not have seen the relevance of the Green Wedge to 'Active and creative people', 'Safe and healthy environments' and 'A prosperous economy'? Responding to such inadequacies was very time-consuming, but overwhelming public response brought some changes.

Ø This council issued a permit to cut 746 trees – including 100 mature trees - for ONE house in a Rural Conservation Zone, with the house to be sited on a ridgetop in a high bushfire danger area – in spite of the permit being opposed by Council Planning experts on 7 points of contravening the NPS. Consequently it was fought through VCAT, the Vic Supreme Court & back to VCAT, with the permit eventually revoked – such a costly, time-consuming process for the community, council and the owner, stemming from councillors' ignorance of: the purpose of the GW, the state & LG legislated requirements for protecting it, and the relevance of the NPS. Responding to this situation, which should never have arisen, was very costly (time, energy, money, anxiety over risks involved with costs associated with the Supreme Court challenge). At the same time, it was a stunning demonstration of local & Nillumbik-wide community resolve.

Ø Councillors were unanimous in proposing the sale and rezoning for development of 17 community owned parcels of land - including some public reserves – all in high density development areas where reserves are most needed. This is indirectly relevant to the GWMP in that it demonstrates again the extent to which councillors do not understand the value placed by so many in the community on green spaces and visual amenity and the costs to the community to challenge such actions. Again, a great deal of time and effort was required to respond to this, so that individual councillors did get to understand community anger and mostly responded to public outcry.

B. Retrospective planning permits

These encourage owners to clear away bush which would otherwise pose an obstacle to meeting the requirements of a "VicSmart" application. - eg 268 Reynolds Rd Eltham (Oct 2017)

C. Misuse of permitted bushfire preparations

Ø as a pretext on private properties to clear vegetation in preparation for future planning applications;

Ø as an emotive appeal to engender fear in the interests of lobbying for landowners' rights to clear their land.

D. Environmental Weeds

Clearance of natural undergrowth (ostensibly for bushfire prevention) results in the flourishing of invasive species in private properties, on roadside verges and in state parks. Personally, ageing means it is increasingly a losing battle to control these weeds.

E. Landowner Rights & Responsibilities

These two concepts should always be considered as linked. In Nillumbik "landowner rights" are commonly used emotively, to justify land clearing. Landowners in the Green Wedge, whether of farm land, tourist ventures or large bush holdings, have responsibilities beyond their own self-interest, to fulfill the requirements of the zone (which most people knowingly bought into):

- as the "lungs of Melbourne"
- to protect and enhance biodiverse ecosystems and wildlife corridors
- to maintain a Green Wedge belt for future generations
- to protect the existing rural vistas

F. Maintenance & enhancement of existing wildlife corridors & treed areas in private properties

Some landowners and farmers maintain and enhance connected shelter clumps and corridors throughout their landscape, so that kangaroos and other wildlife can feel protected throughout the corridor and a community of plant, insect, bird and animal life can flourish in naturally enriched soil, while other land owners have almost completely cleared the land, sometimes without even shelter for their stock animals..

The threat of fire from within the Wedge to property outside it. And naturally climate change adds fuel to the fire, so to speak. Like adjoining shires, adoption of a 'climate emergency' is much needed.

The face of Eltham is rapidly changing and the destruction of trees due to the 10/30 rule horrifying.

I find the new developments being approved have little respect for the street scape and are too often two storey with dark brick and white! upper storey which hardly blends into the environment. Same houses here as in Broadmeadows or Altona. Infill development does not have to be like this .

There is more and more development encroaching on the green wedge which is threatening to ruin it for future generations.

While bushfire is obviously something residents need to be prepared for and to take measures to protect their lives and property from, it can also be used as an excuse to clear land unnecessarily. Some love the bush and appreciate the fact that in living in the bush the risk of fire is there and you take that risk. Some will not be happy until they have cleared their land completely and destroyed the reason most people live and visit there.

I feel that the environment is constantly being challenged and is not as highly valued as economic parameters. I think this has changed in Nillumbik in the last two years and is of great concern, as once the habitat is damaged or undermined, it just CANNOT BE REPLACED. I think the threat of bushfire is being used as a reason for making change that is not necessarily bushfire related. Noting I was living in the area during the 2009 bushfires and I am not minimising the enormous impact of that time on the community. The biodiversity in Nillumbik is extraordinary however many of those living most closely to it don't value it and can do great irreversible damage. I am concerned that the review of the GWMP and the upcoming review of the planning scheme are being used as mechanisms for this.

Severe restrictions on what we can do on our property to alleviate bush fire risks. Local road vegetation not managed properly by council. More importance given to planting roundabouts and median strips than removing excess vegetation on roadsides which in turn would mean more fuel load in bush fire season.

' - Population growth - loss of biodiversity - Increased fire danger - Feral wildlife increased (deer, foxes)
- Overdevelopment. Every human development pushes members of other species, and whole species, to the brink if not extinction.

Nil; we chose to live because of the Green Wedge Status of the area; the challenge will occur if this status is compromised

people with short term profit motives that do not care what they do to the area as long as they can turn a profit from it
I have been saddened by the loss of important habitats in some areas of the Shire, however I am heartened by our breadth of reserves and parks.
Again, the environmental aspects of the wedge are a pleasure and not a negative as your term " challenges" implies.
The treescape is so much thinner now. I understand the need for development but Eltham is Eltham because of the treescape and country feel
Bush fire season is always a challenging time of the year. Even after living in Nillumbik for over 30 years I still feel a sense of unease during this period.,
people moving in and cutting down the trees and undertaking inappropriate uses - dirt bikes, horses, huge houses.
The planning scheme doesn't adequately protect indigenous tree cover or go far enough to promote reestablishment of indigenous tree cover. For example the significant landscape overlay doesn't privilege indigenous trees - all trees are treated the same. This is stupid and makes objecting to planningnpermits difficult.
Nillumbik is the Green Wedge Shire and the Lungs of Melbourne . The slogan "Keep Eltham Evergreen" was adopted in the 1950's and we need to PROTECT, IMPROVE and BUILD UPON what we have. We need to STOP encroachment of the boundaries, vegetation removal and damage to our waterways. Our beautiful environment is home to a vast array of fauna and flora which need PROTECTION. We can learn from the ancient aboriginal ways of managing the land and of reducing the fire risk.
Trying to understand people throwing waste cans and bottles etc out the window of a vehicle driving through this area...
I have had a long lifetime of environmental living and have acquired a vast knowledge of environmental science through formal education and personal observation. I recognise that Nillumbik's environmental by-laws are intended to protect the unique environment of the Green Wedge and I approve of their intent. However, they and the State legislation from which they are derived do not take into account the infinite variability of the environment. The laws are applied too strictly by the Council environmental officers who do not have sufficient experience to recognise that fact and make decisions which in some cases defy the logic of the actual situation. In particular, they do not take into account that bushfires are a major hazard in rural Nillumbik and that high vegetation density vastly increases the bushfire hazard in areas where residents have their homes. It is sometimes sensible to reduce the high density of vegetation (and hence the bushfire hazard) whilst still retaining a beautiful bush environment. In other words, strict laws cannot cover all environmental situations and much more flexibility must be applied to reach a sensible compromise; in most cases, the knowledge and experience of the resident landowner is superior to those of the Council environmental officer and should be given more weight.
The extent of the biodiversity in the Green Wedge is so extensive. Nillimbuk Shire hasretained this and guarded it. I hope this remains the case. With landcare I have found the imported weeds overwhelming.
The lack of protection for the Bushland. The constant battle to protect this valued area
Concerns about the amount of overgrown bush areas on properties creating a huge bushfire risk.
Went through the bushfires 2009 - enough said.
lived at Arthurs creek for 25 years - has become drier - but no real impact on our lives encourage implementation continuation of vegetation control to minimise bushfire risk a philosophy of minimal development means sending most residents out od the shire to work and shop - mostly using cars - generating greenhouse gas and congestion - longer time away from family - less community interaction technology allows this to be reversed and bring a positive environmental impact

<p>The amount of litter along the roadsides in Nillumbik is terrible, it is not the pretty place it was a few years ago. Council are not doing their job cleaning up, Doctors Gully Road is a disgrace. I regularly pick up rubbish along the unsealed roads where I live just so I still feel good about where I live. There is regular dumping of much larger amounts of rubbish on back rural roads by people in the new estates in Whittlesea Shire. We in Nillumbik pay the highest rates in Victoria I think the newly developed estate rate payers need to be made financially accountable for dealing with the rubbish problem.</p>
<p>While they are a definite minority, there are too many noisy people who still put their own pecuniary and ownership rights above the those of the greater community and future good. Pure selfishness. Too many people buy into the area because they like the natural environment, but then want to change it for their own property. The GWMP is one way to help limit this selfish approach but now councillors want to want down the GWMP. Why?</p>
<p>In my experience much of the green wedge around Arthurs Creek has historically been grazing land and is environmentally degraded. We need to have a program that support landholders to regenerate their land in accordance with environmentally friendly and sustainable principles. Necessarily this must mean some level of reforestation of the denuded low grade pastures. I think the council should support the environmental regeneration in line with the principles of holistic farming (see the Savoury Institute, Regrarians etc), permaculture, organic farming etc. This would greatly enhance the environmental integrity of the green belt which at the present time at least in this area while it might look OK is quite degraded.</p>
<p>Just about every day I hear chainsaws around the neighbourhood, as people cut down native vegetation on silly excuses such as they're messy, dropping leaves, closer than 10 metres from the house, etc. when actually developers want to clear blocks for more units.</p>
<p>Too much traffic and associated noise.</p>
<p>Some restrictions that didn't make sense in managing the fire dangers on the roads and around the house</p>
<p>Regulation needs to be beneficial and relevant to the local area it is applicable to. We have managed the challenges of weeds/feral pests and bush fires on our lovely bush block for over 30 years. In recent years Nillumbik Council appears to have lost the understanding and need for bushfire mitigation activity our area. As demonstrated by the high number of bushfire fatalities in the Green Wedge in 2009, bushfire risk for the majority of the Green Wedge (79% of which is privately owned) is something that needs to be understood and managed by those residents that live here. Regulations applied to the land in the Green Wedge should where possible provide land owners the ability to reduce bushfire risk in controlled and measures ways. Nillumbik Council currently does not have the focus it should have in helping land owners manage and reduce the bush fire risks inherent to the area we live in.</p>
<p>The challenge is to maintain what we have. Constant clearing of bush land,weed invasion where land is not cared for,illegal clearing where unnecessary fire clearing has been carried out. Many of these challenges stem from ignorance and more information on good land management practices shoul be given to people when they buy property in the Green Wedge.</p>
<p>Whilst we are in a green wedge, I know there is constant pressure from developers and some residents to push the envelope, clear bush lands, build inappropriately and put our green wedge at risk. We have already seen significant changes in the biodiversity since we moved to Nillumbik 20 years ago, and we need to all work hard to retain what we have.</p>
<p>Nillumbik has been "The Lungs of Melbourne" Let us keep that title and enhance our environment. Stop any urban sprawl, multi unit developments that add traffic congestion, lack of parking, blocking small streets angering residents who are unable to get their car out of the driveway. They also remove existing greenery which is not permanently replaced. All this adds to our greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
<p>Bushfire is a challenge but has ever been so for fringe areas. Appropriate education of the</p>

community on how to manage their properties and how to respond to bushfire is essential. The decline in quality of natural areas through human activity, weed and pest animal invasion are a major concern and should have additional resources devoted to their control. Once again, education of the community about the environmental values of the area should be pursued, so that these values are protected and enhanced.
Slow destruction of environmental values as landholders seek to develop their properties. Owners of residential lots are permitted to cut down excessive areas of native vegetation build or extend their houses, in so doing destroying the very amenity values for which the areas they live in are valued. Owners of larger allotments continue to pressure for greater subdivisional potential. Very costly to develop because of steep slopes, shallow rocky soils and bushfire hazard. Landowners with inadequate skills and/or lack of will to protect/enhance the environmental values of their properties.
30 years ago we chose Nillumbik because of its green / sustainable living. Over last few years we've confronted indiscriminate clearing for silly housing to produce a suburban mentality.
I believe Council has become relaxed in this area with recently trying to remove some environmental overlays through out the shire. Fortunately this was overturned to the benefit of the community. Many people buy into the area purely for financial gain and have no respect for the community and environment. I have met many that don't want to even live here but are just waiting until they can develop.
Feral rabbits, foxes, cats and deer impact significantly on the environment. Rabbits and deer eat the smaller plants and reduce biodiversity. They make gardening a challenge. Foxes and feral cats threaten birds and small native animals such as antechinus.
This is psychological only, but I do worry every summer about bushfires, as I should. Yet the 10-30 rule is ridiculous for what is a suburb - it is essential to keep the trees!!!!
The only concern is the risk of bushfire but with sensible management and ensuring the surrounding suburbs are not overpopulated, then safety is more achievable
Challenge of bush fires - Black Saturday.
The constant threat of bushfire with an increasing fuel load, in the face of limitations imposed by local and state regulations that make it difficult to minimise the risk.
It has always been a challenge to reduce the number of invasive species, such as weeds, particularly coming in from vehicles and machinery from other regions. This always increases a landholder's responsibility.
Challenges have been implementing a bush fire plan for our property and business.
The fear & anxiety experienced in Summer of bushfires. Having lived here during Black Saturday the fear is real.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home to nearly 1,400 indigenous plant and animal species, we are incredibly rich in biodiversity. We are a conservation shire with the Green Wedge as our strategic focus. • The Shire has been legislated to protect habitat and maintain ecological processes and genetic diversity. • Yet incessant pressures (eg. ever-increasing population, development, traffic, weeds, feral pests) from within and without the shire cause the continued decline of our environmental values (see Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report findings) and our amenity. <p>The Commonwealth Government's latest State of the Environment Report finds the two key drivers of the environmental decline in Australia are our growing population and our growing economic activity. The local NEROC Report finds that urbanisation is the biggest threat to the Green Wedge, and is the greatest cause of fragmentation of habitat and introduction of weeds and animal pests into the landscape. Weed infestations and animal pests, especially since the 2009 bushfires seem to have exploded - as well as foxes, rabbits, myna birds,</p>

cats, and dogs, deer and Chilean needle grass are the newly emerging threats. Our significant roadsides have been down-graded. Our waterways are in a deplorable state. In the aftermath of devastating bushfires, as well as part of Council's C81 (Significant Landscape Overlay) & C101 (Environmental Significance Overlay) processes, people have undertaken extensive vegetation clearing.

- This is the current reality, and what we are up against:

- o It has taken the local "Friends of" 25 years of sustained effort to transform a 1.5ha clapped-out horse paddock in Wattle Glen into a healthy eco system.

- o With heavy machinery, it took a local developer less than 2 years of slashing and burning to denude his 15ha property of vegetation. This type of environmental destruction is criminal and should not be allowed.

Better protection of habitat for wildlife and property management plans and methods are sorely required!

- Environmental indicator alarm bells are going off all over the globe. Climate change and threats to biodiversity are the urgent issues.

I am involved in agriculture and find that lifestyle property owners sometimes do not recognise and take responsibility for issues such as weed control or taking responsibility for roaming dogs.

It is a challenge to have a green wedge and be aware of fire danger and take appropriate action. I love the trees and do not want the need for fire risk management to lose our unique "green" character of our shire.

Loss of habitat, clearing

As above. The green wedge was an amazing creation of people who understood the environment and cities. These people had foresight and were community minded, it wasn't about single entities yet the common which needs protection so all benefit and not the few, including animals and biodiversity. Although this is all known and I shouldn't have to be explaining it in a survey.

Many people are unaware of the importance of biodiversity – how everything is connected. They try to impose their will on the natural environment rather than working with it. Indigenous plants will always do better here than exotics, supplying food & shelter for insects, birds, and larger animals. All our native animals are soft-footed, which suits Nillumbik's shallow soil.

I am worried about the part of our community that puts short term profits over future health of environment and community. I've heard that some indigenous peoples have considered any development in terms of its effects on the seventh generation to come.

Since 1998, I and an increasing number of people have been working on managing the environment to achieve positive and healthy outcomes for both the natural environment and the people who share this environment. Some of the major threats to the health of the overall environment include introduced plants and animals, inappropriate development and general lack land management knowledge by many residents. The overall health and resilience of the environment is dependant on the natural resources and overall conditions of this area but seem to take a very low priority in most peoples' minds and certainly is not reflected in the priorities of the Shire.

Bushfire prevention and preparation must be balanced against the protection of remnant vegetation and revegetation to maintain a healthy environment. The impact of urban sprawl on the environment, the roads, the traffic and garbage is outrageous. Nillumbik needs to be more activist to cushion this impact on the environment and the residents by lobbying the State and Federal governments harder.

Fires are always a concern especially during droughts. Over population (people). Degradation of land. Pest animals both domesticated and wild. Stock loss due to roaming

dogs.
<p>1. We despair that all that will remain of vegetation in the Green Wedge very soon will be invasive species. It seems that no-one, [including Nillumbik Council roadcrews] care/s that noxious weeds are rampant/spreading excessively throughout Research/DiamondCreek etc. Specifically African Bone-seed[<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>(subsp.monilifera)], Flax-leaf Broom[<i>Genista linifolia</i>] & Montpellier/Cape Broom[<i>Genista monspessulana</i>] all need urgent eradication, before the next flowering/seeding season as they are suited to increasing temperatures. Take a walk along the aquaduct/and surrounds path to see.</p> <p>2. Major omission from the Nillumbik "Live Local-Plant Local" booklet, is the very beautiful, important and indigenous tree, the Cherry Ballart/Wild Cherry [<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>], yes it may be a root-parasite in order to grow, but it has grown in this area long before settlement and if it is not included as part of Nillumbik's vegetation Guide it will disappear as roadside clearing of it is escalating for no reason.</p> <p>3. Deer are rampant in rural Research etc.</p>
<p>Getting action to protect the environment is very difficult. Nillumbik council's approach to enforcement of planning and environmental rules and standards is weak and underfunded. I have reported breaches of environmental standards and of planning regulations on many occasions. I always ask that the officers involved get back to me and explain what has been done. This almost never happens. I assume officers do visit the sites in question but I can't be sure about this. Environmental damage done on the sites I've been interested in has never been remediated. Sometimes the damage stops, more often it continues on. Grazing of sensitive bushland, especially by horses, is a good example of this, as is clearing of swathes of understory.</p>
<p>With bushfires and the landscape we have to work at maintaining our property to be safe. also had to be involve with the Local Fire Brigade. Having horses is a concern as there are no Refuges nearby to take them on Extreme Fire days. the Yarrambat Pony club is the nearest but access has been barred.</p>
<p>Maintaining biodiversity and minimising weed invasion. There's such a great need for education among ALL residents as to the values of indigenous plants and biodiversity.</p>
<p>This whole idea of reviewing the Green Wedge seems to be an excuse to push for weakening it. The Green Wedge must remain as is and be protected further. It is a legacy that should not be able to be tampered with and weakened by any particular current Council makeup - it belongs to all generations forthwith. Other environmental challenges include people constantly burning off rubbish in piles in their yards and Nillumbik Council's failure to regulate, police, review policy or act on the burden of woodheater smoke throughout Autumn, Winter and Spring. High levels of particulate matter of 2.5 microns is put out by woodheaters and once in the lungs it can never escape, leading to various diseases and ill-health and is a contributor to deaths. The air is virtually toxic on some days in outer suburbs. New woodheater installation should be banned, and a buy-back scheme for existing woodheaters be enacted to remove these massive pollutants (also add massively, more than all other sources to greenhouse gas/climate change pollutants). Such things as burning unsafe materials cannot be reported outside of Council office hours which is ridiculous as of course people burn this stuff on weekends to escape any notification and investigation. More and more wildlife are being killed on roads because wildlife corridors aren't being set aside and protected. Putting high fences around "environmental overlay" properties stops the corridor: the planning instruments on this need to change/be updated. Also, water runoff between properties is an issue that has escaped proper planning.</p>
<p>Ever increasing amounts of rubbish being dumped along our roadsides, whether Council could give more convenient facilities and cheaper dumping fees plus education to restrict this practice.</p>
<p>Scientists have indicated that trees, bush are needed to balance to a certain extent climate change. It also assists to reduce pollution to waterways. The natural land holds many still to be uncovered artefacts and history of both early settlers and indigenous people.</p>

Our biggest challenge throughout the entire region is the threat of bushfires.
The conflict between bushfire and the trees around the property should be addressed. The trees around the house within 20 metres should be free to be removed.
Kangaroos are a real challenge. Eating pastures, destroying fences and creating traffic hazards. Their numbers must be controlled.
The loss of biodiversity and decreasing populations of rare, vulnerable and threatened flora and fauna. In 2011 we came very close to losing the Eltham Copper Butterfly. The species came very close to local extinction - due to a combination of climate change, fragmentation of the natural landscape due to urbanisation and a general lack of resources applied to management of biodiversity in the Shire.
Roaming dogs chasing kangaroos into dam. We pulled out two dead ones in the last months. When we had young cattle often had trouble with roaming dogs. Rubbish dumped on our land. Before I retired I worked for the Lands Dept. Vermin & Nocuous Weeds Destruction Board and used to work along the roadsides all over the Shire but since then, little is being done these days. Many of the roadsides are very dirty and overgrown and are a huge bushfire hazard.
Not enough bushfire mitigation work being carried out, for example cleaning up our roadside reserves. Many of our rural roads are too narrow. Many trees need cutting back or removing and bad corners need clearing and opening up.
We also have trouble with dogs chasing the kangaroos and drowning them in the dam - we have pulled 2 dead kangaroos out in the last 2 or 3 months. I have had two very large dogs bail me up on our property when I was doing some fire prevention works. I have had to report several 'dog' incidents over the years.
Bushfire
Should the council eventually allow a policy for smaller blocks, this would allow the council increased revenue (for dirt roads). These smaller blocks to have extra habitat for bird life and animals on their boundaries. Fencing on all new development should be of post and rail style to reduce accidents to kangaroos.
The lack of utilization of established infrastructure in the shire especially the transport corridor to Hurstbridge which is detrimental to the environmental well being of Melbourne as a whole. The constant and increasing fire risk to the shire and the contradiction between the advice given to residents by the fire experts and what the council will allow landowners to do to make properties safe. The increasing damage to fences and livestock feed by invasive species of flora and fauna ie: kangaroos, deer foxes and blackberries and the disappointing lack of assistance to landowners from the council with these issues.
An average of 322 cars per day currently use Phipps Crescent as a through Rd (rat run) that link Diamond Creek to outer Northern, Eastern & Southern suburbs creating an immense amount of dust which has a detrimental effect upon our health & environment. Two thousand two hundred coats of dust blanket our home & surrounding on a weekly basis due to the appalling condition of Phipps Crescent which can be accurately described as a "dirt track" of third world road. Outdoor activities such as BBQs & family gatherings have to be abandoned due to the dust fallout, resulting in a retreat indoors. Dust hazards requesting speeding motorists to observe a 25kph speed limit have no impact upon motorists that treat Phipps Crescent as a rally track. Note:- The "lungs of Melbourne" associated with the shire of Nillumbik becomes more farcical daily as our air, water & plant life is continually smothered in "green wedge" polluting dust.

Climate change a major challenge. Bushfires a great concern when weather is hot - but, roadside clearing shouldn't be done as wildlife corridors need maintaining.

Please tell us about the economic challenges you have experienced.

Too hard to start a business in Nillumbik. Seems Nillumbik put's too many obstacles in path to make it unviable.
Huge council rates to provide urban service to the 1% of Nillumbik not the 96% rural ratepayers
Eltham College (shires largest employer) has been restricted in their land use
Business Development & Tourism, Eltham Town retail precinct could use more recreational based activity to encourage more foot traffic around town. Kids/teens activity that allow parents to explore the sprawling & disjointed layout of the town. Tourists & residents local businesses could all benefit from a versatile stadium facility housing 4 basketball courts constructed within the retail precinct. possible sites to consider over the Eltham Mall car park, over the Eltham Village carpark, over the Dan Murphys carpark along Luck St. All of these sites could retain existing parking allocation underneath the facility while not exceeding the maximum height limit for the retail precinct. Another site option could be over Safeway & the Circulatory Rd Carpark or even over the Commuter car park and tracks of the train lines. Additionally to attract kids/teens to the town center, some engaging activities such as an outdoor table tennis table and other games to entertain could go in the Town Square, over sized games etc like snakes & ladders, twister etc. these could have an artistic flair to tie in with the area too.
The buying up of properties by developers in the hope that in the future they can subdivide them e.g. Evelyn County Estate - was bought, divided in two (on 2 titles), excellent grape vines removed and the whole property left to literally rot with no income coming in from the former restaurant. The whole property has been left "fallow"!
High rates due to wedge burden on shore. We are not the lungs of Melbourne historically so burden should be removed one way or another.
Making property bush fire safer and cleaning up while walking on environmental egg shells.
For a Green Wedge, too much is being made of agriculture by too few. Its not an area for large scale farming. Its better suited for tourism and being the lungs of Melbourne.
The rates are ridiculously high. It's great they have been held over, but still too high. Need to make more 1hectare rateable properties to increase the rates base and build sensible infrastructure
The push to develop our beautiful area due to the desire to keep rates down and the push from developers.
Councils previous plans to lock up the green wedge has stifled business, reduced property prices, increased rates and produced neglected properties with more weeds and rabbits.
An hours travel for city clients reduces out client base. We have to accept that for the benefits of working within walking distance from home.
The fight from developers and the mighty dollar trying to cash in by over developing this precious area.
Running a small business in nillumbik it is challenging living within the rural conservation zonings that have been placed on our business, as our property is under 20 acres it doesn't fit into the agricultural guidelines to be able to expand and run a profitable business. As other business manage to expand and grow, our business which is of significance and has been running, employing locals and contributing economically to nillumbik for the past 35 years is an anomaly in the system and gets over looked
For hurstbridge, why isn't there a service station, and pub or hurstbridge rsl yet that's what's going to bring the money in to the community not all these coffee shops like for gods sake the only place in the state you can but a pot from a post office is hurstbridge isn't that saying something
Concerns for my children's future in limited work opportunities in the area due to low

business growth and therefore requirement to travel or leave the wonderful area.
Threats to clear areas of land of significant environmental value for building purposes. Extreme restrictions to building code
Agg rebuild post fire deer and roo numbers to high
Cost of land for agricultural use is extremely high.
With the exception of last year, our rates increased ridiculous amounts over the last 12 years - and over that same time the capital value of our property has increased 15%. Buying out here has been the single worst investment decision our family has ever made. Our long term financial outlook is restricted - and as we age we are unlikely to be able to sell and move to a property needing less maintenance - the local urban areas have more than doubled in value over this same time and so we are priced out of this market. It's quite sobering really. Any maintenance on a rural property is really expensive - we are lucky at the moment because most things we can do ourselves - our dam needs some relatively significant work - but we just can't afford it. In the event that our home burns down, under the current zoning imposition we would not be permitted to re-build - and so our family would be financially crippled - we don't think about that - until the next fire season - but it's one of the main reasons why we would stay and try to defend our property in a fire event - we don't really have much of a choice.
Farm property rates
High rates, little support for primary producers. Price takers not price makers for produce. Have no say in what is a fair price for goods.
High electricity bills but this would happen anywhere.
Greed and subdivisions are ruining the place I bought into because I wanted to preserve the wildlife and bush in the green wedge.
Agriculture and tourism can exist side by side, hand in hand. Look to New Zealand and Tasmania for terrific, current and relevant examples. Nillumbik could rival the west coast of Tasmania and many examples in NZ. Shopping strips should be supported by Council as they are and always have been viable shopping alternatives especially for the vulnerable in our societies. They are also a community hub and for this reason, they are vital.
The economic stress/challenge I feel is that we are looking at our sustainability with an eye on short term profit and loss. We should not be pricing the environment, we do not have a long term view. Freezing the rates is mistaken management of the green wedge. It signals that profit is above the environment and somehow by freezing spending we can improve the green wedge. We need to invest in preventing mono-culture activities and preserving waterways, flora & fauna corridors and indigenous biodiversity.
OPEN Studios attracts visitors & help our artists economically which adds to the economy via tourism which is important to Melbournians. The whole area with Wineries, Farmers Markets, St Andrews Market attracts many visitors.
My family bought this property in order to build a house. Council had us fill in hundreds of pages of paperwork and hire all sorts of extremely expensive experts to try to get a permit. But those Council Planning Officers were set to block our application from the very start. This situation that the Council has put us into has been economically devastating.
we will never be able to buy in this area, we are stuck renting, with no reasonably priced housing being built. apparently we need more space in Hurstbridge. no we need houses.
High cost of living rates, water etc and terrible traffic on the roads thanks to all the development.
Most of the soil types and low rainfall in the GW are not suitable for cropping and grazing.
Paying the rates!
It is an expensive area. Local shops are very expensive, so makes it hard to support local businesses.
With housing development and population growth came business development and tourism -

two areas I have little sympathy with. I like to share the parks with walkers and dog walkers, with kids playing some recreational games. I am not keen on mass tourism which on certain days Eltham now experiences.
As a young person (under 25) job opportunities are low
Our rates are pretty high because Council has to spend so much money on things like clearing drains when a lot of the blockages are caused by residents and often even contractors who blow green and brown vegetation waste and other property generated pollution (like driveway screenings etc) into the roadside drains!
The rates have been expensive and the roads are very congested during peak times.
The restriction to broadscale development has resulted in stronger and more integrated townships which service the areas. These resources are better because of this planning but could be further improved by more regular transport to these hubs. Similarly the improvement of unobtrusive but signed and promoted walking and cycle trails would further enhance visitations aided again by better public transport links
I am not a fan of hobby farmers. Nor am I a fan of horse riding and trail bikers in native bushland areas.
Massive increase in council rates causing economic hardship.
Similar to the above environmental comments - more needs to be done to ensure development is appropriately set back from waterways and sensitive environmental areas. Also there have been some unreasonable proposal by Council to develop stadiums and other buildings very close to the Diamond Creek and within the floodplain - these should be pursued in other areas or at least with more appropriate setback distances.
Too much development that is threatening the key values and spaces that make the green wedge so valued and important.
The greatest economic challenges to the NGW are the views of Council and some people (1) that economic growth is essential for community well-being, (2) that the NGW is as much an economic asset as it is an environmental and social asset, and (3) that the NGW must be exploited for its economic potential.
Struggle to pay rates and insurance costs. Like to see the rural side farmed and horses. We have an excellent group of proactive land owners.
There should be more encouragement/support of sustainable agriculture. There should be a little more low impact tourism opportunities - eg farm gate sales.
Due to the lack of transport and ridiculously high council rates, my family is financially burdened by living in the area. Our family home has LOST value.
Limited opportunities for changing employment.
There is an ever present pressure from businesses to grow and slowly encroach on the flora and fauna of the green wedge. This silent creep is causing me stress and challenges to attempt to slow or reverse the damage to the environment.
Very high council rates. Happy to pay, just do more for North Warrandyte.
Purchasing a share in the Conservation Co Operative and building a house without the backing of a bank was a challenge, but it was done and now I own my house and have done so for a number of years now. The challenge was worth it.
Nillumbik is restricted the with the regulations of RCZ GW - the shire cannot survive without industries/businesses. I am not talking about invasive industries, but passive industries, tourism, offices, retirement villages, nursing homes - people want to stay in the area they grew up in. One lady at one of the sessions I attended had 8 acres, wanted to subdivide into 2 X 4 to allow them to have their family close, and access to money in their old age. They just had to pay out \$20,000 for road sealing, due to pressure from young affluent couples moving into the area. These older people have protected the environment, supported schools, community groups and should have some leeway in their old age.
Not really applicable but I do not wish to see too much tourism development

Water has become extremely expensive for us in our nursery
Let's make the economy something other than priority #1
I know people struggle with rates.
rates are higher because of lower rate base. this is however acceptable because of the amenity
Feral animals have caused expenses with fencing and baiting for rabbits. Deer are probably our greatest challenge as they are roaming bushland, grazing in paddocks and wandering our roadsides at night.
Inappropriate developments of subdivisions can lower overall land value.
Short term pressure for economic gain via development, inappropriate sub-division, undermine long term opportunities that can achieve from environmental tourism.
Relatively high rates when trying to live sustainably and work from home.
It costs landowners / householders more to live in the Bend of Islands / Green Wedge but you balance those costs when you buy into a rural property. Services are less as deliveries are more costly from companies and some do not deliver "this far out" that would be the same Green Wedge or not.
There are local vine yard which do well. Tourism which is not damaging!
everything is expensive
unsure
More jobs for people around 15 and up. There is defiantly not enough jobs for everyone but mainly young people. More often than not young people are getting crowded and hard jobs with food. If we had more jobs and better employment people wouldn't feel so crowded. If we had more jobs that are welcoming more people in their teens to young adult would actually have jobs.
The smaller towns in the Green Wedge like St Andrews, King Lake and Panton Hill seem at times to be in danger of losing shops and services as large shopping centres are beign built outside of but within reach of the green wedge. It is important to continue to explore economic development within the green wedge that is compatible with its values.
Maintaining a Bush block is a constant battle to keep it weed free. Farm blocks get a rebate from council & many of these properties are a "Hobby Farm". Conservation properties should be encouraged with a rebate in their council rates.
Rates: Non-urban green wedge needs to eb rated as non-urban, shire & state government to resolve.
The Green wedge is an asset for all of Melbourne and should not be sacrificed for private economic gain. Having said that, the responsibility for maintaining it should not fall solely on landowners.
Tourism has its positives but should not impact on communities. I believe it has distorted St Andrews Market which was buzing along fine and attracting tourists and local alike. When commercial marketing takes place it creates a fake reality and looses genuineness. Festivals too are affected by this type of marketing.
It is important to maintain the green wedge but the burden should not fall entirely on the landowners as it is a resource for all
The balance between tourism and historic use of the land needs to be respected.
More larger businesses coming into Main St.
city folks moving to the area and not educated enough...no regards to wildlife and the environment
High Rates - No Services, Poor Infrastructure
Real farming is a valid use of the Green Wedge and sustainable farming methods will ensure it can be ongoing. Economic use of the Green Wedge including tourism can be an asset, but it must have a focus of enhancing the natural environment of our Green Wedge otherwise

the "lungs of Melbourne", the unique biodiversity, etc will be lost.
Very expensive to buy a house and then the rising cost of living is putting alot of pressure on families.
Rates nearly killed me when I was on the dole - a days pay every week.
Too many tourists using limited infrastructure facilities.
Costs a lot of money to live out further fuel and car maintenance. Wildlife is not being controlled try hitting six kangaroos in one year and see what happens to your insurance
High Rates!
Transport and travel costs have increased considerably, and I am aware that many in the farming community are finding the rates extremely difficult. Many services and access to distance work could be addressed by adequate high speed broad band. Power charges are really biting and any program by the Shire to invest in local solar schemes would be welcomed by many residents.
This council seems only interested in businesses
The challenges I face with is the time I spend with land holders trying to explain the benefits of weed control and trying to explain they can't run 10 horses or 10 cattle on 10-25 acres for a side income! The feedback I constantly get is they cannot see a economic value in those works there fore they don't do anything and there land turn into a tea tree or blackberry jungle. The realestate agents of this area have a lot to answer for in that they make innocent buyers believe they can do anything on the land of this area- this clearly is misleading most of the time entirely false..
It's expensive to live out here, pay rates, maintain fences. It's becoming cost prohibitive for some, they have to sellup because they can't afford it any more. Then, lets be honest, people with more money move here, and lets say a certain proportion of those more well to do people, just don't care about weeds/community/ and don't become valuable community members.
You can't provide services if you don't raise rates! You just sell the darm, or try to, to cover your costs.
We have seen many small businesses fail in the Green Wedge, simply because our population isn't growing and as more attractive shopping options appear in nearby suburbs, particularly to the west. As a result, there are limited employment prospects for young people, so they inevitably drift away: few return - meaning an aging population with diminished spending power.
Shame Diamond Creek hasn't aimed for a cultural feel like Hurstbridge. Diamond Creek has sadly been over represented by take away food and junk outlets. Move away from junk and go for culture, sport, well being and opportunities to promote biodiversity .
The Green Wedge is at risk of being destroyed by development, which would inturn remove what people come here for
Nillumbik IS NOT viable as farmland except as lifestyle properties. Where breeding say horses, alpacas and growing grapes ect., as a hobby where the owners main income comes from sources other than the land. Small lots with a house as a lifestyle property are able to exist in Nillumbik.
I would rather this area not become any more of a tourist attraction
It is a challenge getting enough passing traffic to run a successful retail business.
The challenges are related to some people in the shire wishing to maximise their land value and by over utilising their site for monetary gain to the detriment of the environment. Greed
In every facet of life there are challenges, no matter where you live. The way they are viewed, addressed and overcome is the mark of a successful business operator. I faced many challenges in running a successful business for thirty five years in Nillumbik employing on average ten people. None of my challenges emanated from the business location. As a rural based business drought was the major impacting challenge, I look forward to the

GWMP being able to rectify this in the future.
I see large parcels of land not being valued as the future crop areas for Melbourne. Instead, property owners seek a secure financial future from their larger holdings by placing pressure on Councils for residential subdivision
The threat of possible urban development in the Green Wedge is of great concern, and it appears to be underpinned by a lack of appreciation of the value of the Green Wedge coupled with a view that land should generate income. This is misguided - the environmental values of the Green Wedge are immense but cannot be quantified in a narrow monetarist analysis
It is good that we are not overdeveloped, but we do need to compromise a little to ensure the area doesn't die off.
Agriculture. Farm rates with no Consultation were removed . Made cattle grazing impossible.
We must reject the opening of our region to the large chain stores and encourage and support locally made and distributed foods and products. Supporting the continuation of healthy productive agriculture relies on a vigorous, bio-diverse environment which delivers healthy soils, clean water and a stable climate. Working outside my shire means I have to use my car to travel long distances and be away from my home for much longer periods of time when I and many others would welcome working locally in more cottage based industries. This is where tourism would also benefit the shire widely.
The cost of protecting the 29 acres that I own is becoming difficult for me. The fencing needs to be replaced in many places due to the movement of the roos and deer. They destroy fencing. The cost of removing kunzea is prohibitive for me. But if it is not done, the paddocks will return to bush within a few years. The Australian bush is very tough and resilient, even in a drought. The cost of protecting the land is becoming difficult for a 72yo.
The only economic challenges I have as a landowner is the constant desire to maintain and manage the land in as natural a state as possible. I must point out that my ownership of land in the Green Wedge is not influenced by pecuniary matters and money and time spent on land management and protection of natural species on my property gives me great satisfaction.
I am concerned by plans to promote tourism in green wedge or adjacent areas rather than develop these in urban areas.
We value our unique environment, of our beautiful landscapes, of such rich biodiversity, this is what is attracting people for their health and well being, recreational pursuits, to markets, festivals, orienteering, musical and other artistic events, carbon emission offsets. Reject the opening of the region to major commerce. We prefer to shop locally, and to support locally made and distributed food and products. The Green Wedge currently attracts huge biodiversity grants - we need to retain these. The continuation of healthy productive agriculture relies on a vigorous, bio-diverse environment which delivers healthy soils, clean water and a stable climate.
The increasing pressure to promote tourism to make money worries me, as I don't trust that the environment won't suffer as a result. Surfer's Paradise is an example of the mindless promotion of tourism...
Unreasonable limits to modifying an existing outbuilding to make a self contained B&B.
Far too much commercial development and subdivisions, if we wanted the benefits of a living environment ruined by commercialism we would live in Thomastown.
It is far more expensive to live here because of the distance from shops etc.
Our rates are very high! Not sure the service in terms of maintenance and activities reflects the high rates.
That economic incentives will undermine the green wedge protection policy.
I hate the proliferation of chain cafes in Eltham, Serve horrid food and push out the smaller independent cafes.

Our beautiful environment and landscapes are a tourist attraction. People come to the area for their health and well being, recreational pursuits, markets, festivals, orienteering, musical/artistic events. We should protect our unique environment and small scale businesses by not opening up the region to major commerce. We like to shop locally and support locally made food and products. The Green Wedge currently attracts huge biodiversity grants and we need to retain these. The healthy productive agriculture in this region relies on a robust environment which delivers healthy soils, clean water and a stable climate.
'- Run some cows - sell calves - hobby only as not cost effective. Run 20 chooks and sell some eggs. Have large orchard and vegetable garden. - Cape broom growing on council verge along our fence line.
I have experienced no economic challenges why would this be an issue in the Green Wedge. If the community embraces the environmental significance of our municipality and apply marketing and other tourism opportunities to fit in with the Green Wedge rather than fighting against what we stand for tourism could thrive.
No local work, long commutes. Poor public transport, had to leave the bush and move to the burbs due to inaccessibility of work and education. Poor transport even in the burbs, kids travelling out of the area to access decent high school
Threat of subdivisions and inappropriate development including use of blocks for businesses and spread of sheds, old containers, parking for fleets of machinery etc, Current schedule of appropriate agriculture and animal husbandry is OK but no more clearing and current restrictions on native vegetation clearing should be maintained and strengthened in some areas.
The economic challenges relate to the need to ensure that built form in the green wedge associated with uses such as tourism development and wholesale and retail businesses linked to agricultural land use and the like are subordinate to the soil based agricultural and conservation values of the green wedge.
This response is in relation to the business development in Eltham and Diamond Creek. If we are to maintain the charm of the Green Wedge, it is prudent to provide the residents with their basic and need. An over supply of businesses and business premises, firstly becomes unproductive to the business owner and superfluous to the needs of the residents.
The greatest economic challenge is to protect from inappropriate development, that natural beauty which is central to the ability of many residents & businesses to flourish, eg businesses relevant to the arts, culture, green businesses (solar, plants, nurseries, green built environment), tourism, health, hospitality, horse-riding, sustainable agriculture, organic products, wineries, markets and festivals Some landowners who lobbied hard with fear tactics to have greater freedom to clear areas of land as bushfire preparation, expect funding to help them control the invasive weeds which have inevitably replaced the bush. See comments under Opportunities.
Tourism...concerned at the thought of what Yarra Ranges style tourism and tourism for the 'high yield' tourist would change the shire. Business development..such as? Our Green Wedge would lose its charm and character if development occurred e.g. retirement villages. What businesses would not cause problems?
Rates! I know that we have to pay them, but it is a struggle at times
I find it challenging that economic matters appear to always take highest priority.
Well I live in the Green Wedge I don't just visit. I say economic because I think others want a slice of it. We can't all live in the Green Wedge this will come at a personal cost.
Limited development , planning regards, even when plans include protecting environment!
Our beautiful and unique environment attracts people for recreation, sporting pursuits, attending markets and festivals - supporting local businesses while they are here. Healthy productive agriculture needs to be promoted and supported.
Tourism is the 4th largest income to the Nillumbik area, yet accommodation is very limited,

businesses that would attract visitors are restricted. Go back into your archives and check out the Boat O' Craigo application to develop a winery!
great place to live. Nillumbik is not good for business. It has a strong history of not encouraging economic activity eg its long absence from North Link (yes recently returned). The lungs of the North philosophy comes before jobs for young people
Currently there is a 100 acre limit on development within the green wedge. In the context of that part of the wedge adjacent to the Mernda/Doreen growth corridor, this means landowners have very high capital cost but very limited capacity to generate income from the landholding, and even more limited capacity to provide employment to the adjacent population much of which is in a low socio-economic bracket. The current situation means that only those with significant means or historical ownership are able to live in this part of the green wedge. It also means the economic disparity between them and many of their neighbours is extremely marked. If the 100 acre limit was reduced to say 50 acres, then in sympathy with environmental regeneration outlined above, the landholders could develop enterprises that would make their landholding economically sustainable, provide employment opportunities to people in the adjacent growth corridor and great amenity to people living in this corridor. This would also provide the economic stimulus to support landholders to engage in environmental rehabilitation of this part of the green wedge.
Main road becoming the real-estate capital. Loss of the "Eltham Identity"..... its become a thoroughfare
People love coming to Nillumbik for it's natural attractions, so it is important for tourism to retain our green wedge and bushland, to blend in with the cafes, restaurants and wineries.
Lack of trains - particularly on Sundays and during the evening. This is particularly frustrating when trying to get to Hurstbridge.
Many people and businesses buy into the area with the intention of developing their land or business due to the affordability and quite often when it doesn't go to plan the leave the area and the community is left with the mess.
I own a business in Eltham and unfortunately over the last 9 years i have seen a decline in the popularity of Eltham. This is due to the fact that banks/gyms/reale estate agencies keep opening and the small independent different boutiques/retailers are closing down. The main steet has lost its warm village feel. Also the car parking time restrictions are too short, and this is affecting my business . people dont come to eltham any more as the range fines everyone.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation. Nillumbik's Green Wedge and high quality biodiversity present our natural and relative economic advantage. With a clear conservation focus, Nillumbik's role is obvious. As the "Lungs of Melbourne", we are perfectly poised to be part of the solution in addressing the urgent global issues of climate change and threats to biodiversity. State Government recognition and support of this is crucial. • Opportunities to becoming recognised experts in landscape-scale management of environmental repair, and to create real/lasting jobs for disadvantaged and young people (saving in mental health and prisons costs). • Opportunities relating to 'carbon sink' / carbon sequestration / carbon emission offset schemes. • Food-security-wise, and being peri-urban providing relative advantages in low transport and supply costs to the Melbourne markets and port, agriculture should be encouraged. • Recreation; health & well-being; local arts-driven & eco-tourism. • With the high education levels of the local population and the roll out of NBN, etc technology, encourage home-based businesses/consultancies. • The steady population increase naturally supports the existing local retail sector.
The high rates placed on agricultural properties based on values of surrounding land are not related to the 'productive value' of agricultural land but rather the value of small lifestyle properties. The valuing system is a statutory system determined outside Council but Councils could do more to advocate for a change in the way rates are determined as this is a

State wide problem.
Support for local agriculture is dismal. This is a very productive area within 50km of Melbourne. Our food production should be encouraged and supported for the good of the State as well as the shire.
Increasing numbers of small and medium businesses are being established on RCZ and Green Wedge zone properties which are inappropriate in the zones. These are often earthmoving/drainage contracting type businesses. Large machines, often in large numbers, are kept on these sites, along with construction materials eg. rock, gravel, piping etc. Once again, the challenge in getting council to enforce its own planning rules in cases like these is very difficult. The approach taken seems to be an "educational" one. Operators are visited, told what they should or shouldn't be doing, and then it's back to business as usual for the property owner. Very little serious enforcement is undertaken and those in breach of planning rules quickly learn they can ignore them and grow their businesses, despite the activity being strongly discouraged in the zone. As a result the values of the green wedge are degraded, along with the environment and local amenity.
there are not many roads or horse trails in the Shire that are safe to use. this impacts on Tourism as well. arrears that could be developed are the old Kangaroo Ground Tip could be an equestrian centre. Plenty Valley River could be opened up to horse trails, as could the old Aqueduct roads and the proposed subdivision in Christmas Hills.
As a shire we have so many opportunities to invest in our environment by respecting and caring for it appropriately. There is much to be gained for everyone. The culture of respecting the earth as undertaken by the Wurundjeri community over tens of thousands of years should inform and guide us.
The impact of Council Rates increasing dramatically over recent years, particularly for those of us farming.
The bush environment is an attraction to visitors from a Sunday drive to a prolonged stay. Nillumbik needs to develop tourism with information re: walks, vineyards, heritage and somewhere for people with an interest to study birds, insects, animals, frogs, etc. With various courses that provide interest and connection.
Because of the diverse nature and huge area, business development is probably hindered. Although on this - what sort of businesses do we want? Certainly not "industrial"
The housing affordability is a big pressure for the local family.
Blackberries and other weeds need to be consistently controlled. Property owners should be forced to manage weeds.
Nillumbik's high rates area a challenge for many but I commend this Council for its efforts to keep them within CPI.
Most Nillumbik land is unsuitable for agriculture apart from a few wineries. There doesn't seem to be much to appeal to tourists apart from Eltham Miniature railway and the annual Wattle Festival. Suitable land need to be released to establish a new commercial industrial area same as Bridge Street Eltham area. the Yan Yean and Sutherland Road area would be ideal to rezone as it would utilise the land near the high voltage transmission lines and the sporting ground areas.
We used to run cattle here and cut our own hay but because it was only a small enterprise the (then) council cancelled our farm rate. In the end we couldn't run cattle because it was costing so much to feed them and we were, and still are, over run with kangaroos who constantly damage the fences.
Some property owners have allocated areas to rejuvenation with some considerable success and smaller blocks have planted native plants suitable for wildlife. These properties should receive recognition in the way of rebates as this is a lack of productive land for grazing or agriculture.

The lack of local business and light industry means residents must commute in and out of the shire leading to heavy traffic congestion in the morning and evenings and the associated costs to road users and money being spent outside of the shire during the day. A good example of this is no fuel available at Hurstbridge which means many other local business's miss out.

The high financial cost of owning and maintaining a large acreage in materials machinery feed and labour and the hours of unpaid work the owners have to undertake preventing them from doing paid work.

The low rate base in the shire putting pressure on revenue and the ability of the council to provide services and keep debt under control without a blow out of rates which are already the highest in the state.

We are currently farming 370 acres situated between Phipps Crescent & Allendale Rds Diamond Creek. 3 property owners allowing us free lease of some 350 acres.

Currently stocking rate is 1 breeding cow to 10 acres. Stocking rates are low due to:-

a) Kangaroo plague - a total of in excess of 400 grasses to ground level leaving virtually nothing for our cattle for 7 months of the year.

b) Marginal, poor, rocky ground, very unproductive former gold mining country.

c) Low carrying capacity

d) Costs - Hay, silage, veterinary costs, diesel, machinery weed control, spraying, fence repairs, stock losses, clearing up of trees & branches, dam & environmental works, vandalism repairs, insurance, regulatory & transport.

e) Inability to look up paddocks & conserve feed due to kangaroo numbers.

We have historic ties linking our family to our surrounding farmlands since the late 1800's.

We have a historic, economic & agricultural background & can honestly state that farming this area has not been viable for 70 years. There are no viable alternatives.

Note:- We can only continue our suburban/farming/lifestyle existence with our private pension fund.

Challenge? to access services such as the Community Health Service.

Please tell us about the regulatory challenges you have experienced.

This block is not big enough So i copy below.

History is apparently a big driver of the discussion so here is my knowledge on our history. I have found shell fossils in mudstone in St Andrews which means this land was underwater in Gondwanaland.

The Fire tower in Kangaroo Ground is built on a volcano and the yarra river or its tributary flowed near Kangaroo ground tower. (Ask my mate Eric Floberg)

And later Aboriginal ancestors hunted the abundant food, Kangaroos.

The turn of the century saw a lot of gold prospectors flood this area and Queenstown cemetery bears stark reminders of the tragedy and sacrifices that our ancestors endured.

Relics in Flat rock rd and Mine rd , and Panton Hill. Lots of gold digging all around this area still existing but nobody cares.

Most of the local area was denuded of trees that were used for building and firewood. -

Including

A sheep abattoir was in Lorimer rd Wattle Glen.

A pig abattoir was in Gosfield rd Hurstbridge.

Both with wood fired boilers to render the offal to gelatine used to make jelly. (don't ask) .

The Fires of 1963 that devastated this area , I still have trees on my property that are now, by this new council, called multiple trees that are regrowth from the single burnt stumps.

In the 1970's. The dam now called Sugarloaf was farms and I raced in the Australian Championships on the land now underwater when Melbourne water declared all land from Skyline rd to KG to Smiths Gully - part of the Melbourne dam network Eg the green wedge' this land also including the agricultural areas of Werribee and the sewage treatment plants at Carrum Downs and Werribee.

Removing dead and dangerous trees is very unfair process , building permits take too long

The need to maintain vigilance on planning issues. The seeming lack of understanding that some have in relation to roaming cats/dogs.

The draconian approach taken by planning authorities that have been managed by unreasonable ideology driven people, unduly influenced by minority fringe groups that were allowed to stifle reasonable requests for use of THEIR land.

The threat of C81 & C101, now defunct. The threat of radical non-thinking environmentalists (we are very environmentally minded by the way but not radical!), who want the whole Green Wedge to be like Bend of Islands! And the threat of developers wanting to carve up the Green Wedge for their gain.

Inability to keep our property and roadsides clear for reducing the bushfire threat. Roadsides are so overgrown it isn't possible to walk other than on the roads.

Harrasment from old council driven by extreme greens .

Restrictive overlays, restrictive planning laws, the debacle of 2016-17 Nillumbik planning laws sins repealed C71 or whatever

Changing speed limits inconsistently. Delays with planning permits

Liberal laws to exploit the natural landscape without due consideration for the economic value of our natural assets. Planning laws that apply to other municipalities are often NOT appropriate in this Shire

changes in the building act have made multi density and now suburban activity centers able to come into the Nillumbik, more so Eltham township area and destroy the tree canopy ambience and move more people into an area that does not have the capacity to support increased population of people and cars.

Council Red/Green Tape is a joke - rule 1 - everybody knows that Rule 1 is Never engage with Nillumbik Council - it will only end it tears - hopefully the culture change coming through with the new council will improve this.

Complexity, time and costs of building structures challenges incentive to expand and make

more efficient business and domestic opportunities.
Too much red tape and taxes
2002 the greenwedge management scheme which was put in place without consultation with business owners like ourselves has made my already permitted and running business a prohibited use. The changes being that the 20 acre min and agricultural usage such as grapes and wine allows restaurants, night permits, expansion on seating, operating ours etc, where as my already existing business which is a purpose built business from the 1960's can not expand, grow as the site is only 2 acres
Planning refuse to consider the impact made by noise, glare, and traffic that happens in a rural areas, sound travels differently, as glare impacts across the valleys, the environment can change dramatically with no consideration to existing residents
Getting permits to rebuild after the Black Saturday bushfires. Too much red tape.
Extreme restriction imposed by building codes
<p>Bushfire overlay - is appropriate for our area - unfortunately they are not supported by other planning provisions and the 10/30 rule is not underpinned by any evidence and so providing for the protection, prosperity and safety of people living in the green wedge is not accommodated at all by planning provisions or policy in the rural Nillumbik green wedge</p> <p>Overlays - we have about 5 overlays imposed on our property - quite frankly I'm not clear why - I've read all of them - most are meaningless and general - most repeat limitations that already appear in our property zoning</p> <p>Zoning imposed on our property is grossly inappropriate - our zone is for 100 acre lots - there are 4 properties in our area with 100 acres - the other 94 properties are less than this - it's not fit for purpose</p> <p>Environmental legislation requires that we complete a myriad of the forms, permits and things we need to apply for to create appropriate defensible space around our property to reduce loss in bushfire - the process is out of our financial reach. It also requires stupid things - like leaving a dead tree in a paddock - which is just dumb, a risk to the horses and a limitation on re-planting a new tree to replace it. Environmental limitations and restrictions are plain stupid in a highly bushfire prone area like ours.</p> <p>Harvesting of fire wood for domestic use - something that you just do when you live on acreage - is also limited by rules - they are just dumb</p> <p>Limitations and restrictions on building mean that it has been challenging, and will become more challenging to accommodate the needs of our family as they grow and age - thinking about in-law accommodation and teen accommodation requires a myriad of specialist reports and permits that are beyond our financial reach - and the time they will takewell it may not be viable (no point in trying to get a granny flat for my mum if during the two years and \$50k it takes to get the permit she dies - and this is typical of planning in our area)</p> <p>The regulatory duplication, onerous and burdensome permitting requirements, specialist report costs, none of it adds any value to our lives , none of it provides for the safety of my family, none of it improves the value of our property - the only thing it does do is create more opportunity for environmental extremists to object to people who live in and own the green wedge - it's rubbish.</p> <p>In our time at Nillumbik council planners have called us liars, planners have told us that they will do whatever the environmental activists want and us landowners in the green wedge just need to deal with it, DELWP has crafted legislation that can reasonably be expected to harm our property and family, two bushfire royal commissions have recommended action that has not been implemented locally, and the Emergency Services Commission and structure - rather than reducing risk locally - comes out with "leave early" as their policy priority - oblivious to the fact that we can't leave at all if we want to continue to live here because we are probably not going to be able to re-build if our home is lost in a bushfire</p> <p>Our experience is that the environmental movement is responsible for the imposition of barbed wire legislative cages across the rural Nillumbik green wedge - and it is dangerous for us, our families, our animals, the local wildlife and our local flora</p>

Applying for a planning permit has so far taken 2 years and nine months at a cost of over \$200000 and still not approved ,but mainly it is the emotional trauma suffers caused by the delay and the planners attitude
Too many permits required for primary production. Regulations very restrictive.
Too much control over personal choices about how I build my home. I don't want it to fall down and it's my choice to live in a bushfire prone area so I'm prepared to take risks for the sake of aesthetics
I appreciate the regulations that are there to keep processes honest and accountable
I have experienced no regulatory challenges and very much appreciate the fact that the Government has legislated for the protection of the environment in the Green Wedge by not permitting people to do exactly what they like on their properties. There is nowhere in the whole world where this is allowed. Regulations are good! I also like the fact that Nillumbik was created as Green Wedge Shire with conservation of the environment as its strategic focus. Please continue this happy state of affairs. Just because a few greedy people want to make a killing by subdividing is not a reason for changing this strategic focus.
Waited long time for building permit - to the point where we ran out of time. Totally unnecessary preservation order put on some trees on our property. Installation of Barriers - appalling visual impact, plus lack of maintenance by Vic Roads since installation - grass growing behind and in front of barriers. Increased car accidents involving kangaroos as a result.
Local laws on recreational use of motorbikes has been relaxed and hard hoofed animals are being allowed into areas with sensitive vegetation. Abandoning C81 & C101 on the voices of a loud minority is not showing me that local government is prepared to proactively manage our green wedge and to educate the community on the benefits of a uniform and regulated approach to sustainability and biodiversity. It appears to me that single issue community groups can divide and conquer local government and result in community loss and individual gain. I ask the Council to stand up and be counted in the preservation of the green wedge for our long term future.
Recently speed limits have been reduced on Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Rd. This is very frustrating as users are being inconvenienced rather than the root cause of road safety concern being addressed. Every time the limit is reduced, it takes me longer to get to work.
The north east link is needed but I'm cautious as to its location
We actually appreciate the regulations re CFA, Fire Safety , protection of vegetation , advice where to build, support we have had from our council when people do not protect environmental gems.WE hope this continues. We feel this protects the lifestyle which we came here to enjoy , which we hope will continue ,and not be disrupted by people who do not fully appreciate what we have here.
The planning scheme is really difficult for a layman to interpret. Documents are all over the place. More dangerously, it is all quite grey. So it seems OK to a person reviewing it with the intent to buy a property. But there are dozens of statements in it that can be used by radical planning officers to block any planning permit application they want.
The contradicotrasy view of councillors. "We must keep it green and protect our trees. But if you want to build we demand to be able to clear the ground around your house.' make your minds up.
Council taking land for trail
Restrictions on my property
Council advised that it considered above neighbour's stockpiling to be in the nature of a 'hobby' rather than a business - and they weren't able to do anything about it!
Planning issues, mostly due to officers not understanding the regulations. We feel that planning should assist us in achieving outcomes and not be purely negative.

Fear of green wedge being vulnerable to development and exploitation from council or other bodies who may have conflicting interests.
It is very frustrating when the Council try to limit the development of a site to be overruled by VCAT and other powers. Our Nillumbik logo represents the urban element working in harmony with the environment, I would like to see this as one of the Council's main focuses and promoting this to developers to attain a better outcome for the community.
Too much regulation of land use, land clearing, architectural style and the like.
changes in the council regs to allow for mutidensity developoment current council led push for changes that the community has fought against
Too much bureaucracy
There are not enough laws to protect biodiversity. Changing council members can lead to watered down laws which is wrong.
Disappointing that local and state governments are looking to develop the Green Wedge. These are places of irreplaceable value in themselves and to the people who live and visit them. They should be preserved now and in the future.
Planning controls don't always promote the end goals of safety and environmental protection and council is often unwilling to consider alternative options.
Nillumbik make it ridiculously challenging to add to your property ie even putting up a shed has ridiculous regulations to go with it.
No real challenges as I enjoy living in Hurstbridge
There is a continual problem of developers trying to manipulate regulations to their on advantage and to violate environmental overlays and the rest. Council must enforce existing planning regulations, and, above all, ensure the Urban Growth Boundary remains where it is. If this is shifted it will mean the end of the GW as we know it.
After the 2009 bushfires, State government changes to bushfire clearing rules have meant that the native tree canopy in Nillumbik's suburban areas, especially Eltham and Research, has been decimated. Locals 'love the feel' of natural environments but newer residents, and especially developers, now cut down all the trees in their yards under the Bushfire rules and then develop a few years later. Eltham will soon look just like Nunawading or Templestowe if we are not careful: - no trees, no nature, and no personality.
As stated above, Council's oft repeated attempts to support inappropriate development and undermine Green Wedge Protection, requiring constant alertness and strenuous concerted activity to counteract this destruction.
All levels of government are not providing adequate protection of our environment - the land, the flora and fauna, etc. Local government not doing enough to eradicate noxious and other environmental weeds - actually doing the work!
Having been to VCAT to support Council's rejection of a planning application, and witnessed many others, it is exceedingly frustrating to witness VCAT pass uphold a property developer's appeal because it scrapes through RES CODE requirements. I think RES CODE has some MAJOR flaws that need rectification.
Inappropriate development
Blocks approved at 275 sq is ridiculous
Allowing developments that decimate our native flora and fauna.
The Panning Controls need to be strong and probably strengthened to avoid inappropriate development and the loss of our landscape, lifestyle and culture. There is a continued pressure on the overall governance systems (3 levels of government) for a once off personal profit.
Vast increase in rules governing what wd can and can't do on our property.
Trying to obtain planning permits for earth works and sheds on my property has been very trying experience - the council were very unhelpful

That there is a constant chipping away at these wedges for purposes other than the original intention and there seems to be a constant battle to maintain these when this argument was discussed and put in legislation years ago.
Allowing inappropriate development.
I am unhappy with the reduction in green wedge protections, including the recent pigeon bank road and olivigina development. These should not have even come close to being allowed, and only stopped due to other reasons. I am very concerned that protection is being watered down.
overlays and planning regs
I find the council should keep a strong stance on many things to protect our beautiful shire from property developers, polluters and environmental vandalism. I find this could be done with more of a clear delineation by the council from these sorts of people to residents that actively have the same pride in our area but are trying to obtain a building permit to build there home. This could be improved by the council implementing clearer repeatable guidelines of ACHIEVABLE goals based on common sense and flexibility to achieve a win/win result.
Whilst many of the stated aims of the NGW and its plan are admirable, it has no "teeth" - much of that is left to Nillumbik's Planning Scheme in its role in permitting and enforcing land use changes. However there continue to be instances where new buildings and clearing of native vegetation are inconsistent with NGW aims. The regulations must be stronger and enforcement better resourced.
Need to relax the regulations around cleaning a defensible zone and cleaning up for fire season. Council to do road way clean up and burn offs. Allow collection of fire wood from road side.
C81 & C101 had issues with mapping. My property was only slated for minimal ESO1, when the property has significant remnant vegetation over most of it. Did not believe it would protect my property into the future. VicRoads seeming to have agenda that is in conflict with GWMP -eg guardrails, tree removal.
Local council trying to sell off land and over develop area. Stop now
Rigid council that doesn't think outside the square.
Planning rules are particularly difficult to navigate are a little unreasonable. I understand the need for protections however the overlays make wanting to stay in the area and even make small changes very difficult.
We had a 4 year battle to get a planning permit on a property that previously had one but it had lapsed, this cost us over \$40,000 the whole process devastated us financially and mentally.
Council changing planning regulations after purchasing the property. Very stressful to get a planning permit.
The area is zoned in a special category and it was a battle back in the 1970's to have it zoned for environmental living. This was hard fought for and it has meant that the area has no cats, dogs or horses. The regulatory challenges these days are now about the Bushfire overlays for any new buildings since the 2009 fires.
As above, restricted to expand due the restrictions on RCZ and GW. It is a great challenge to balance industries and the green wedge in which we love to live. I have noticed, especially in Plenty where the blocks are bigger - people buy these beautiful properties and then cut down every tree on site for their big houses - unfortunately Council do not have the power, with the Building codes now, however, the RCZ are restricted. There needs to be a balance - from the residential, one acre, two acre - etc., it is a very hard road for Nillumbik Council to get it right.
To many applicants trying to push the limits of the planning provisions requiring people like

me to constantly defend the Purposes of the zones.
Some of the regulations could be a bit more flexible, eg selling produce and signage
See above.
I find it difficult to understand the lack of follow up when illegal clearing and grazing is reported. Nothing happens. It's become common to knock down some bush on a Sunday, burn the heap and when a by laws officer turns up the next working day, there is no evidence and we are told they have to be caught in the act. Clearing by stealth.
Inadequate enforcement of local government planning provisions are resulting bush removal without permits & encouraging further contraventions.
Inadequate enforcement of local gout, planning provisions and allowing incremental erosion of bushland environment and encouraging further contraventions.
Understanding who last say on rules and special powers of agencies like Melbourne Water.
Inhibit further development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Pressure for development is relentless and needs to be motently resisted. > having council lead on green wedge issues to pressure and promote the shire as the green wedge shire.
I don't have confidence in the local council to protect the Green Wedge and it's environment.
Competing interests.
Similar requirements for other rural properties - affluent roads waste collection etc but we think differently sometimes - how can we do better so Green Wedge is not damaged.
The building requirements are applied with a blanket approach. Individual assessment could reduce environmental damage as in fire rated building.
I have not experienced any challenges
I believe from a more outsiders point of view that the local government should take more time and care in keeping the green and tourism, intact in the local community so jobs can stay intact and safe from harm.
Bolten st upgrades didn't solve a lot of things juist made the road smoother
yup.
Bolton street is often busy and hard to cross
With a recent astonishing attempt by council to grab valuable green spaces for monetary gain fortunately soundly defeated by a massive community grands well - we have seen the need not only for strong green wedge regulations of all levels of Government but also for vigilance of all who live in work in or visit or otherwise value the Nillumbik green wedge.
It is disappointing to see new owners of properties in bush areas move in & then remove trees & anything else indigenous. Enforcement does not seem to be adequate. Fines are not large enough to deter some residents.
<p>Enforcement. Regulations & requirements are no use unless they are rigorously encorced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Vegetation removal / destruction > Animal occupation / control > Weed control >Feral Animal Control
Knowing we have supportive laws that will have good results helps us follow rules which reduce chaos.
The bushfire BMO could wipe out large parts of the Green wedge in more densely populated areas. Residents must accept that they are living with bushfire risk and take appropriate action.
It is important to maintain community resources in the face of individual gain at the expense of the environment
The current Nillumbik Shire Council's threats to the Green Wedge
A lack of enforcement with issues like domestic dog control, inappropriate land use and

differing interpretation of planning laws.
An approach of creating a museum like space rather than an evolving living landscape
Difficulty removing trees that continually fall on our fences etc. We have so many and are not supposed to remove them.
there seems to be no regularity any more
Changes in Building Zonings and requirments
Strict one dwelling per title, financial this has really hurt us!!!!!!
Poor Planning Response. No Long term vision
Since 1973 when the Melbourne Planning Scheme was introduced by the State Government Nillumbik's current Green Wedge land has been zoned for farming where cleared and bush conservation where not cleared. There should not be any changes to the Nillumbik GWMP that will negatively impact on supporting the planning scheme that regulates our Green Wedge. Personal pecuniary interests are not good planning grounds and do not help preserve our natural environment for future generations.
Increase in over-sized developments, creating increase in car volumes on local roads & tree canopy's in many parts of Shire disappearing before our eyes!
It is frustrating to see the Green Wedge boundaries being nibbled back over the years by successive Governments and Councils. The changes are always one way and once the open space is lost it is lost for ever.
It is very difficult to deal with Council. especially over the Sacred Eucalypt issue. It is not easy for a pleb to apply for a planning permit. Easy for the (in the know) developers though. The Shire acknoweleges physical disabilities but ignores mental. Someone who has anxiety and depression, for example, cannot make a planning application.
There has been a continual degrading of the green wedge by successive Nillumbik Councils and no real commitment to the green wedge. Housing estates just popping up. Trying to run a survey after the fact is typical Government hoodwinking.
Too many overlays and red tape.
Changes to the use of trail bikes with little or no restrictions has made a big impact on the use of our property with sometimes 4 surrounding properties all using multiple bikes at the same time. The noise is intolerable and even disturbing inside.
Councils inability to equip its residents for the future.
New development sites reducing soft landscape and opportunities for tree canopy
The council are much tougher on dog owners than they use to be. They only seem to care about sporting facilities, leaving people who don't play sports at a disadvantage. I was told by one councillor that they can't stop people using open spaces as they see fit, in relation to people riding bikes in the dog park, yet I am greatly restricted as to where I can walk my dog.
There are a number of restrictions in how a property can be managed and improved which are a disincentive to do anything.
ridiculous planning costs and delays imposed by the shire. awful management of finances by the shire. fees higher than anywhere in the state because of poor financial management.eg why pay to cut grass on eltham yarra glen rd in the middle of winter after a drought...are you mad?
Regulatory experiences centre largely around building permits, and the very narrow interpretation of these by the Council. Some of the past attempts to gather local opinion on environemntal issues have not been conducted ethically, casuing a great deal of stress to locals- I speak here of the attempt to foist on to us the restrictive overlays of last years amendmments. These regulatory practices caused a great deal of stress and division within this community. A green Wedge needs to incorporate human needs and respect those who live in this environment.
Restrictions on building new dwellings on large blocks has meant a largely static housing

<p>supply in a time of growing demand; inevitably, prices are driven up and many people can no longer afford to live here.</p> <p>With exaggerated fire risk through poor land management regulations, the cost of building a new home in the Green Wedge has risen. It is perhaps time for Government to decide whether people can remain in the Green Wedge - in which case they should be permitted to make and keep their domains defensible, or remove people entirely, kill the hamlets and towns, acquire all privately owned property and allow the Green Wedge to revert to native Victorian bush. As the latter is demonstrably not feasible, then the former is the only sensible option.</p>
<p>Since the 2009 bushfires more clearing of blocks is allowed. This has enabled some residents to clear large parts of their land. The Bushfire Management Overlay means that people wanting to build a house have to clear most of their block.</p>
<p>The road barriers are a visual disaster</p>
<p>New neighbors who now feel entitled to clear native vegetation.</p>
<p>Pontential changes the governance and planning standards of the green wedge.</p>
<p>I feel concerned at the immense amount of work that is undertaken (primarily scientific) to inform decision-making apoears to be largely ignored when reviewing current town planning regulations.</p>
<p>State legislated GW's in 2002, other than for a few minor attempts to make GW's viable such as suggesting conference centres, the sate has allowed Local govt. to write their GWMP and implement overlays and restrictions throughout the shire. Nillumbik has been overzealous in their desire to protect an area that generally does not need protecting. It is only if Nillumbik is looked at as an island and not part of Victoria that Nillumbik becomes 'environmentally endangered.</p>
<p>Poor protection of our reserves and not enough money going into conservation protection and development.</p>
<p>Ridiculous regulations - numbers of animals, having to remice all summer grass from stock - NO evidence this will have ANY significant impact on a bush fire. Urban people making noise about culling kangaroos which do not impact there lives and government listen to noisy people. Tree removal is s disgrace - again no scientific evidence to support polices - developers are able to remove what they like but I can't remove a dead tree from the paddock?! Flock numbers for animals are not scientifically determine - no roosters in urban areas is unnatural, rather hear a rooster than Hoon's. Permits to remove buildings that are falling down is pretty ridiculous and the asset fee for concrete delivery on an unmade road to protect the assessor is simple theft from the government. 15 minutes car parks 24/7 also seem to be a money grab in - why aren't they 15 minutes between 9-5 Monday to Friday? Very lazy and greedy that parking 2hr is again 24/7 why not longer in the evening or weekend? Better to park on the main street in Eltham which is nuts!</p>
<p>The existing use right register requires more stringent policing as there have been instances on Henley road of people flaunting the rules. A supposedly compliant Home occupation on Henry Road is completely inappropriate and should never have been allowed to happen</p>
<p>The greatest challenge here is in providing certainty to every landholder across not only Nillumbik but across all green wedges. This will only be acheived by ensuring a long term committment to the vision and ideals of our green wedges through consistent planning regulations. The current adhoc approach by all levels of government to planning is opening the door to the gradual disintergration of Melbourne's green wedges. As a pre eminent green wedge I look forward to Nillumbik's review of the GWMP proving it is a bastion in maintaining the wellbeing of it's citizens, the landscape and biodiversity.</p>
<p>The very fact that this survey is taking place is worrying as it suggests that the protections currently afforded to the Green Wedge may not be safe</p>
<p>The planning as a whole maintains the green feel, b it t surely we can subdivide less than 20 acres. We should change the minimum to 8 or 10 acres.</p>

Council's constant pressures to place as many regulations on us, and the constant pressure of Green Group interference. After the fiasco of the C101 and C81 we are now facing this, where once again the landholders have the least say In the management of property. Council has forgotten that the Green Wedge was started by property owners. My view is council's need to stick to garbage and roads.
In correct classification of our land use. Making it difficult for BB , Farm Sheds. Usage of your own land.
Strengthening environmental protection would mean protecting against the issuing of retrospective permits which on so many occasions have allowed owners to flout existing rules. Protecting the landscape to maintain, and the expansion of, existing animal corridors will further support our unique bio-diversity which is so important to our Green Wedge. Improvement of our waste management system will have wider positive implications and means that those who are so inclined, won't be tempted to simply bury their waste or burn their compostable green stuff which further degrades our soils and pollutes our air.
I believe that it is absolutely horrible that the local government attempted to sell the local reserves
Signage. Visual graffiti and sensory overload of excessive, confusing, gratuitous and sometimes conflicting or redundant road, parking and community signage. Please reduce, simplify and standardise Roadside barriers 80% ridiculous waste of money! Enough said
The changes in the law with regard to clearing has been annoying. Neighbours have been charged for clearing kunzea, now it can be done.
The big challenge here is that the regulations that do exist to protect the Green Wedge as per its original vision are not being enforced and are constantly being eroded by the influence of land bankers. This is the responsibility of both State Government and Council.
* Proposed imposition of Planning Amendments that were skewed totally in favour of the environment with no relation to or consideration of the social and economic impacts they would have. Further, the environmental values were wildly overstated and aspirational which would have significantly affected how people could manage and use their properties.
I object to any reduction of protections currently afforded to the green wedge
We have some lovely fire roads around the area which are all closed to horse riding. I would like to see these open up to horse riding so that we can keep off the dangerous roads which are narrow and windy and have too many cars travelling too fast on them. If the area at the end of Rob Roy Rd, across to One Tree Hill, Smiths Gully Rd, Buttermans Track was opened it would provide a safe place to ride (and commute to the riding club). If it was just the fire roads opened I can't see this being an issue for the bush. If people are still concerned about the damage to the bush another option is to mandate horses wearing hoof boots like they do up in the Buller area. Just a thought!
Strengthen environmental protection. Protect the voiceless (animals). Protect against the threat of individuals working without environmental guidance. Let's not just talk about these; its important to take effective action. Protect against the issuing of retrospective permits which enable owners to flout existing rules. Change the existing planning schemes to enable enhancement and expansion of significant landscapes and animal corridors. Supporting our Green Wedge is supporting the Lungs of Melbourne. Improve our waste management. Require new developments to be ecologically sustainable; and promote environmental sustainability in whatever we do. Rather than slash and burn, encourage an environmentally sensitive approach to managing our bushfire risk. Landownership involves rights as well as responsibilities. The Green Wedge is our collective responsibility - for all of Melbourne , for the future of our kids, and their kids, and theirs.
The conflict between council claims to be preventing mindless development and being in the pocket of the developers...People who will destroy vegetation knowing there is a fine , and just pay the fine as they make more money from the McMansions they plan to build
The majority of regulations about what we can and can't do are determined by those that

don't own land in the area or live in the area. They seek to enforce their view of what being "green" is on those of us who live here. However, we chose to live here because of the environment, and are doing more at a practical level to look after the environment (controlling weeds, erosion, etc).
Melbourne Water land sell off, councillors with serious conflicts of interest where they or their friends financially benefit from decisions they make.
The constant challenge to the preservation of the green wedge is so short sighted and a threat to the health of the city of Melbourne.
We are being polarised along political lines at a level which should not be Labor, Liberal or Green; local government is about local issues, not a stepping stone to state or federal seats. Many of the decisions made by the current council reflect their political biases, or a desire to sidestep regulations in order to sell more land (and increase the number of ratepayers). I would question some current councillors commitment to maintaining the Green Wedge, as they have declared themselves as pro-development and actively seek re-zoning of the shire to suit the breaking up and selling off of the wedge itself.
When trying to make improvements to my property and we get micromanaged - even though we have the best interests of the land and nature at heart
The staff in the planning department seem to change frequently. Planning regulations seem to be applied arbitrarily.
I feel our local council does not support the green wedge principles and we have to constantly defend our environment from developers
I worked for many years in planning in Eltham and we found it difficult to have local controls implemented.
both state and local government regulations for the residents are overzealous , Autocratic and cumbersome and bear no attempt to balance between love of LIVING in the green wedge and realistic protection and ongoing propagation of the same for the area. Constant frustration for residence to weigh up value for money for their RATES...
That the council may change the protection of the green wedge for economic and development gain.
There is not enough protection for the environment - the flora and fauna that does not have a voice. We need to protect against individuals who work in this area without environmental guidance. We should stop people flouting the rules and not grant retrospective permits. We need to take effective action against such individuals to stop the spread of this behaviour. The planning schemes need to enable further enhancement and expansion of significant landscapes and animal corridors and increased protection of our native vegetation. We should require new developments to be ecologically sustainable and have passive solar principles included in order to reduce energy use. We should be promoting environmental sustainability in everything we do. Land ownership involves responsibilities as well as rights and we have a responsibility to protect and preserve the little natural environment that we have left and keep this Green Wedge intact for the future of our children and the generations to follow.
Lack of compliance on building re. permits for buildings along common boundary. Neighbours with two houses on property as old house retained after new house constructed. Council needs to enforce compliance.
State Government Regulation not allowing pest and vermin control in bush land reserves. Lack of control measures for noxious weeds and feral animals (includes foxes, rabbits, deer and indian mynas
Large overlays of council requirements
C81 and C101 were highly divisive and represented an extreme environmental ideology that threatened to disenfranchise large sectors of the rural population.
To discourage landowners who consider they have an 'as of right' to subdivide their properties.

<p>The loss of the greenery, the building of multiple story apartments, the overcrowding of the area.</p> <p>This needs to be stopped and this council is to blame.</p>
<p>The overwhelming pressure for built development in the green wedges. Both in the form of residential development and in terms of excessive bulk and scale of a whole range of Section 2 discretionary uses in the Rural Conservation Zone and Green Wedge Zone.</p>
<p>Local council thinking they can change the rules which protect the green wedge is a huge challenge. Money should not allow people to feel they have the right to destroy the precious green wedge. Beyond money in its worth and beauty.</p>
<p>I find it concerning that the council are so strict in some ways with permits on existing developments but seem to have no problems with trying to sell off 'vacant' blocks of trees land or allowing multiple story, high density developments on cleared blocks!!</p>
<p>Council laws very restrictive re managing property. Prohibitive in implementing practical property management while retaining the lovely environmental landscape we love about living there.</p>
<p>'A. Why discard an excellent GWMP? Why this huge process – not to review it, but to start from scratch? Why call it a review?</p> <p>The company conducting the review has demonstrated its professionalism, but the process is flawed.</p> <p>This engagement process has been open to abuse – as demonstrated by PALS (ProActive Landowners) with advice on how to abuse it by submitting multiple surveys and multiple votes for the expert panel, using multiple sources (from home, work, friends, etc).</p> <p>The notion that a Community Panel which is required to give 5 Saturdays, can be representative is just silly. Invited applicants fill in on-line Qs to facilitate a spread of demographics, but there are no Qs to identify parents of young or teenage children. While we are assured that this method has been used successfully before, past practices have not been able to tell whether this group were included or not. Clearly, such a group is excluded by the time needed to participate. The panel is representative only in terms of the groups in society who can spare 5 days for this purpose.</p> <p>B. Data collection on loss of biodiverse habitat</p> <p>- needs to be built in to a GWMP. There is inadequate data on loss of biodiverse habitat to measure the success of a GWMP and to guide actions needed.</p> <p>C. Undergrowth - needs to be valued as part of the eco-system; it is often the first signs of nature trying to repair itself after land clearing or fire. It needs to be identified as part of a planning application and off-sets should recognize it.</p> <p>D. The complexities of small lot development within larger lot size zones</p> <p>While it is obvious that the simplest solution to the left-over parcels of land in zones with minimum areas of 8 or more hectares is to incorporate them into adjacent land holdings, there is some limited scope for minimal development which does not involve destruction of existing ecosystems or significant landscape.. The problem lies in the pressure to build on small lots where such development would be detrimental to existing ecosystems.</p> <p>E. The limitations of 'off-sets'</p> <p>Ø Off-sets do not provide an off-set ecosystem, just an off-set tree - a “better than nothing” strategy which replaces an existing developing or mature tree which is part of an ecosystem, with a lonely baby tree. “Off-sets” are like sending someone who has been dependent on family and community to a place with no family, friends, language or support systems, then discouraging emerging support systems by keeping the land around the off-set tree cleared.</p> <p>Ø Off-sets need to require a plan for a biodiverse plant community to support the offset tree(s), recognizing the importance of plant communities which support the health of the tree and the biodiversity needed to support the various forms of life: healthy soil, birds, plants, animals and insects - the biodiversity of nature.</p>

<p>F. Retrospective planning applications should not be rewarded, but required to “put it back”!</p> <p>Ø Land clearing without a permit where one is required should NOT be rewarded:</p> <p>Ø Retrospective planning applications should be ineligible for aVicSmart planning process.</p> <p>Ø Applicants should automatically be required to replant what has been removed</p>
<p>Difficulty in gaining permits and how some seem to be able to gain permits to build structures inappropriate and that DONT meet council and state government standards of NOT building on ridge lines and high fire zones</p>
<p>Long time residents and those trying to look after the natural environment encounter multiple barriers to constructing a carport or garage resulting in a blight on the environment with shipping containers everywhere. Yet, those wanting to cause destruction of the natural environment on a large scale to build huge houses, (especially on rideglines) continually get a free pass to do as they please. The rich are allowed to trash the environment because money talks to politics.</p>
<p>Loss of protection by changes to state VPPs. Removal of protection provided in C101 and C81</p>
<p>Over-restrictive regulations on our own property. We own 20 acres and are in our 70s. We do not want to be forced to move into aged care facilities when ideally we could sub-divide our land into 4 x 5 acre lots and give these smaller allotments to our children who in turn would be able to care for us in an area we enjoy so much.</p>
<p>vic roads taking over parts of the land</p>
<p>Don't like it when Councils approve things that support development rather than protecting the green wedge and the character/uniqueness of the area.</p>
<p>Difficult to maintain a block when burning off is only allowed one month per year.</p>
<p>\$200000 and 4 years and i still have not got my planning permit to build my house</p>
<p>Allowing the destruction of the treescape because of dual occupancy</p>
<p>Land ownership involves rights as well as responsibilities - it is our collective responsibility. Existing planning schemes need to be strengthened to protect our environment and to prevent owners flouting existing rules.</p>
<p>Dogmatic adherence to the written legislation by Council environmental officers is often based on wrong conclusions and lack of knowledge. During the term of the previous Nillumbik Council (2012-2016), a neighbour, who was a former high-ranking CFA official, former CEO of another municipality and longtime resident of rural Nillumbik, wished to reduce the bushfire hazard on his rural property by removing some bushy undergrowth and he contracted an experienced environmental contractor to do this. An antagonistic neighbour, who held a personal grudge against the landowner, reported this to the Council but exaggerated all the facts and included information that was untruthful. Because the informant had "friends in high positions" on the Council staff, his report was accepted without question, biased officers upheld the complaint and the unfortunate landowner was charged with an infringement. The charged landowner had the support of his other neighbours who recognised that he was innocent and were prepared to testify on his behalf if the matter came to court proceedings. The landowner consulted with a senior barrister and contracted an independent environmental consultant to report on the situation. There was correspondence between the landowner's and Council's legal advisors over a period of time until the current Council took office and shortly afterwards dismissed most of the Council's senior officers and changed the Council legal advisors. During the dispute, the landowner was told that Council relied on the advice of its own officers and would not consider any advice from independent environmental consultants. Under the current Council, sanity has prevailed and the landowner has received no further Council harassment. However, the attempts to prove his innocence has cost the landowner \$11,000 and many of his friends have urged him to claim these costs from the Nillumbik Council but he has declined to do so. Hopefully, the overall change of senior Council officers and legal advisors will have reduced the chances of a similar occurrence in the future, but some junior officers who were involved</p>

in the case are still employed by the Council.

On a similar note, Council officers have, in the past, refused to consider the advice from the CFA on bushfire safety matters taking the arrogant view that Council, and not the CFA, was responsible for the safety of Nillumbik residents.

Council environmental officers have often displayed their ignorance by advising (and even issuing contravention notices) to residents who have sprayed poison on dense outcrops of invasive blackberries. The Council officers have claimed that the landowner could be also destroying native herbage growing at ground level beneath blackberries. It is a fact that under dense covers of blackberries and burban, no herbage can germinate or grow to be poisoned by spray! Other examples of lack of environmental knowledge and experience of Council officers could be quoted.

Council rules stopping people from being allowed to make there properties safe from bushfire. Council blocking roads, not making roads wide enough to pass. The amount of traffic during peak times, grid locking the area.

We want to see development of the area to attract tourism visitors, but we and others like us are hampered by contradictory, confusing and draconian restrictions that make creating viable tourism-type businesses in the area next to impossible. The various overlays are contradictory, and you need help to find your way through them.

to obtain a planning permit to live here is well nigh impossible and in most cases cost nearly as much as the land value itself

inefficiency, and expense of the planning process - VCAT has become the regulator as local government haven't the wherewithal to make decisions - they send it to an arbitrator - take planning away from local government and or semi privatise the process to speed it up and minimise the cost blow out

exploitation by government - our property was moved from Whittlesea (general farming) into Nillumbik and zoned conservation by the State Govt in 1994 - with no consultation or any compensation for decline in property value - then we had to face the recent challenges of the defeated conservation overlays - all other peoples ideology - proof that governments will do what they want - this revised process is a feel good process to deliver pre determined outcomes

As discussed, the 100 acre development limit radically undermines landholders capacity in the area adjacent to the Mernda/Doreen growth corridor, to develop enterprises that will generate income to:

- support environmental rehabilitation of the largely degraded landscape
- provide employment opportunities for the adjacent population
- provide amenity to people living in the Mernda/Doreen growth corridor where currently there is very little

If this was reduced to say 50 acres then this would enable landholders to develop environmentally friendly/sensitive enterprises that would support all the above initiatives.

Living on a large bush block has different challenges to the 1/4 acre block in Eltham and neighboring suburbs. Some regulations that make perfect sense for a smaller suburban block make no sense when many acres are involved. Council at times appears to not understand the differences.

I'm concerned that council officers are no longer enforcing planning regulations as they should. We have seen numerous instances of local residents and businesses flouting planning laws with no obvious consequences, despite having raised our concerns with council

Recent attempts to better protect the green wedge and its environmental values through a review of the Environmental Significance Overlays was not proceeded with the Council, which was a very negative outcome. This should be pursued again with increased education of and participation with the community.

this review is a waste of \$s, energy & time... we need to protect the environment more!
Excessive bushfire controls resulting in loss of native vegetation.
As a landowner, misguided regulations make it difficult to maintain the property to a safe standard in the face of high bushfire pressure.
Just building around council permits
Landowners and developers are able to destroy good quality wildlife habitat without impunity. Our current environment legal protection arrangements are insufficient and need strengthening.
Perhaps my previous comments should have been in this category but there are economic implications of the rating system.
I haven't but this area would not look like this if there were not regulations it would look like Mernda or South Morang!! I didn't choose to live in those places.
All three levels of government are City or town-orientated, and it seems we are often needing to fight to retain our chosen lifestyle. There needs to be respect for everyone.
I don't like the ever increasing subdivisions occurring. What we have is precious, and once land is built on it is very rare to be able to reclaim it as empty farm/bush land.
Poor and slow planning.
The push for more strict laws on what land owners can and can't do. I.e. the c81 and c101, was so unfair on land owners. We should not have to fight to manage our land sensibly.
<p>Due to the nearby elite private school [in the middle of RCZ3] has it overnight floodlights/lighting 24/7/365 ruining our eyesight [via direct glare and spill], as well as ambiance, lifestyle and night-sky, we have tried over very long time to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approach the school to baffle and lower lights[to no avail over many years]; 2. Approach Jenny Macklin to try and do something about offensive lighting from a Federal level; 3. Ditto via State Government; 4.Plus the EPA. <p>Please NB- It is simply not good enough anymore that there is no legislation at any of the levels of Government across this Nation that cannot put a stop to further, as well as retrospectively, fix and prevent other establishments, businesses and housing from causing any light spill and glare into another persons property, Green Wedge parameters or otherwise.</p>
<p>Local and State government authorities very rarely enforce their own regulations/legislation with regard to impacts on the green wedge. See previous comments.</p> <p>Federal government legislation around biodiversity and endangered species is rarely enforced. Laws are of little use without enforcement .</p>
<p>Traffic Speeds on the Narrow roads all around the Shire are too fast and means it is unsafe for Horse riding; and sometimes just driving. Many roads have been sealed which only increases traffic speed; a trail for walkers or horses next to these roads should be built ;as it has in some cases , to make it safer.</p> <p>We live on an Arterial road that joins the Western Ring road to the Eastern suburbs and the constant traffic using this road means we have to be alert every time we drive out or into our driveway. hopefully the North East link will be built and this road will mailny for the locals again.</p>
Great lack of enforcement of breaches of environmental protections. Sometimes fines are given and illegal works continue without regard for the regulations which actually need to be strengthened. This is one of the greatest downfalls of Council and other bodies. Death by a thousand cuts is a reality we all hate to observe and yet it happens day after day. We want urgent and strong environmental protections for all bushland in the Shire.
Reporting such things as people burning off waste materials from eg renovations, painted and stained timber, rubbish etc cannot be reported to Council except in office hours and even then nothing seems to happen to prevent the same people doing it over and over

again. By-laws are therefore ineffective if not upheld. The practice of the Mayor having verbal comebacks in Planning & Environment matters when people are presenting their 3-minute speeches is very poor procedure and must be stopped. The job of the committee is to listen and consider the residents' concerns, not rebutt them.

I am concerned about the risks posed to the green wedge by Melbourne's fast population growth, urban sprawl pressure, and housing densification.

The Federal and State governments should recognise the special aspects of Nillumbik Shire to enrich the health and connection to the Aust. land for all Australians and also tourists.

One thing that holds our region and any other region is the number of levels of government we have and the lack of working together for the benefit of the community.

Constantly having to protect our rights against more stringent controls.
We had cattle all our lives until recent years when the kangaroos became a huge problem constantly damaging our fences. we could no longer cut our own hay. The (then) council then took away our farm rate so we were paying the same as urban dwellers whilst at the same time being impacted by ever increasing and more stringent regulations.

Federal and State governments should be urged to release extra funds so as roads, footpaths and kerb and channel works can be carried out. many areas in the shire have been neglected in the past.

Having the green wedge has restricted the development of the area. there needs to be a balance between the old green Eltham ideals and the real world.

Council regulations are contrary to the advice given by fire experts in regards to what landowners need to do to make our properties safe.
Council provides no help to landowners facing the costs of invasive species mainly the escalating population of kangaroos.
Council needs to recognize more the expertise of landowners in the management of their land gained over many years and trust in their ability and wish to care for their land and be more inclusive of them when drafting regulations rather than deferring to a small group of green zealots as has been the case in the past.
Council should realise and accept we all have different opinions as to what is aesthetically pleasing and be more tolerant when dealing with landowners wishing to build the home they choose to live in.

Regulations concerning zones, boundaries & uses have created a confused, bewildering & inconsistent situation throughout Nillumbik.

These include:-

- a) Some 80 % of allotments through the shire do not meet the minimal zoning requirement size.
- b) A UGB that zigzags around back fences & yards creating conflicting & confused land uses e.g. unit redevelopment abutting paddocks on supposed viable farmland.
- c) The permitting of factory type building abutting boundaries & the subsequent industrial activities upon undersized allotments on land zoned ERZ3.
- d) Panel hearings & council recommendations that support amendments being ignored.
- e) Misleading statements, claims & opinions during planning hearings put forward by consultants, activists & others add to the angst & confusion.
- f) Costs associated with council regulations e.g. firebreaks, fencing, weed control, animal welfare, vegetation & drainage.

DELWP & MLA regulations concerning animal husbandry stock management, OH&S, cartage, health, transport, fodder, identification codes & vendor declarations contribute to the non-viability of farming in this area.

Please tell us about the social challenges you think Nillumbik's Green Wedge will face in the future.

Not enough options for older generation to retire without having to leave their land. There needs to be more flexibility in regard to multi families living on rural properties.
Interference by idiots that have no idea how to live here.
Need better public transport and parking in Eltham , widening of roads and road drainage
Transport continues to be a major problem. I think the introduction of more regular and more reliable bus services would be very beneficial
The push by developers to build whatever, wherever. The need to develop more park and ride initiatives to reduce traffic and pollution. The maintenance of public parks and recreation facilities to encourage people of all ages to exercise. Continued opportunities for social inclusion.
Better sporting facilities for our community
Stop expanding and taking away the landscape for more \$\$
Lack of appropriate transport options and infrastructure, often stifled by unreasonable minority groups have lead to traffic congestion that is unsustainable. The loss of life this will cause in the event of a major bushfire (inevitable and exacerbated by ill informed vegetation management) will be catastrophic. Too much emphasis (again influenced by minority interest groups) on community, cultural heritage to the detriment of family and health and well being, particularly for an ageing population.
There is a lack of houses to downsize to in retirement in the local town.
Lack of community integration due to lack of connecting infrastructure. Certain areas very isolated.
Transport for young people is non existent and river crossing at Warrandyte too small for expanding suburbs like Doreen
No more road widening please
Too much traffic. Single train line from Greensborough. Needs ample parking at train station
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.The pressure to accommodate increased population without adequate Planning. (A population cap for our Shire should be determined.) 2. Ad hoc development (Centralised, higher density living in preference to continued suburban sprawl.) 3. Prioritise Public transport infrastructure as a preference to short term road fixes.(Roads encourage sprawl) 4. Prioritise development and projects that will unite our Residents not pit them against each other. (This is a Community, not feuding political parties. Community Mental health should be an uppermost concern)
Infrastructure needs mean we need a bigger rates base by increasing the number of 1ha properties.
Too many people and development.
See my earlier comments. In addition, we will need to provide suitable services and suitable housing for an ageing element of the population so that they can stay in the area and be active participants.
In part see previous answer. To reiterate: Nillumbik is at an urbanisation crisis point which is having noticeable impacts on residents life through congestion. This threatens recreation, community, cultural heritage, health and well being.
As development grows through greed and population there will be more pressure to subdivide and develop our precious green areas.
Community. These anomaly business provide community with a social hubs in fairly isolated areas. Brings community togetherness, creates jobs and training for our young people and

young families.
I think there will be pressure to reduce the green part of the green wedge. Thus reducing the health and well being benefits it provides right now. Replacing CO2 ingesting, oxygen providing green stuff with more houses and the necessary infra structure will just ruin the special environment we have here for ours and other families to enjoy.
Everyone is looking for a service station and hurstbridge rsl to Go to after work or family dinners but you want approve for one
Public transport is needed now. Acknowledge and support the equestrian activity and lifestyle
Too many people and badly designed housing and a lack of housinfg suitable for down sizing
We need to continue to enhance the range of activities available for our youth, to engage them in satisfying cultural, sporting, community and educational pursuits, and make it easier for them to access these without necessarily depending on their parents.
Traffic
Loss of recreational green areas ;
Threatening development
Transport issues, lack of public transport, congestion. Poor housing stock due to poor standards of design and enforcement of energy ratings in higher density housing developments.
Transport is going to continue to be a problem.
Ageing of rural populations - brings challenges of property maintenance, social isolation, weed and pest invasion, limited accommodation options and choices to relocate to, shrinking pension eligibility pools, rural poverty Recreation trails and public landholdings are constantly being reviewed by environmental activists to try and get horses out of them - which is limiting Increasing bushfire risk profile of the area, when combined with more frequent drought events is likely to increase the frequency and severity of fire incidents Road surfaces are likely to deteriorate further - which creates danger for road and pedestrian traffic Generational change in property ownership can be expected to significantly change values in the wedge - council currently has no idea what landowner values are - so from their point of view this may not be evidence - to date almost all landowners practice responsible land ownership and management - going forward this can be expected to be more variable as more new people move into the area New people to the area bring expectations of services that are just not available in the green wedge - and will never be More frequent fire and drought events can be expected to have negative health and wellbeing impacts on already vulnerable communities where health and wellbeing is significantly below the broader Nillumbik area The rural Nillumbik green wedge does not have a compelling reason for existence - except for Sugarloaf Dam and Winneke Treatment Plant - and this is not capitalised on across the area. The reality is that most of the area are hobby farms - and these landowners do not support the area existing for environmental conservation reasons because this is not the reason that they live in the area.
It is not sustainable to have 20 acres when 5 minutes away subdivisions are 400sm blocks. It doesn't make sense. When land is so expensive you are adjusting your demographic.
Climate change is going to create greater stress in people's lives, perhaps greater pressure on infrastructure, more people using facilities such as libraries etc to keep cool in summer.
Since moving to North Warrandyte in 2009 I have been very impressed by how stron a community Warrandyte/North Warrandye is. I see the same out at Hurstbridge where I spend a fair amount of time. I'm hear it's the same out atPanton Hill and St. Andrews.

Hopefully that continues into the future and that vested interests don't take over council.
Public transport as mentioned previously. Increasing population, more cars, more traffic, more pollution. We need better public transport services now.
Same as above
As I stated in my first responses. Increased population imposed social pressure and a disintegration of cohesiveness and caring
Social pressures are most obvious when a council believes it is necessary to sell it's "surplus lands" to fund recurrent expenditure. The land is so valuable, there is significant temptation to sell "our land". We need more land reserves, not less. More parks are needed, more heritage sites, more local history and sites of natural and national significance.
Pressure to develop areas of the Green Wedge due to population growth. Diminishing sense of community as more people move into the area. The negative effect on our health and wellbeing with the loss of natural environment .
Infrastructure and transport need to keep up with the growth in population but high density apartments and units are not easily suited to the Green Wedge environment.
With increased population, there needs to be focus on improving traffic flow and providing reliable transport for ALL areas of Nillumbik. Bus services need to be expanded and trains need to be more frequent and reliable from Wattle Glen and Hurstbridge. Parking facilities for train travellers will be an issue if more space is not created. Parking facilities need to be addressed. Increased population requires increased provision of facilities (health and wellbeing, facilities for adolescents. Improved health and fitness centres around DC, Hurstbridge, Kangaroo Ground, St Andrews. The YMCA at Diamond Creek will need further investment to cater for the local community/attract locals to this facility.
Divergent social views for the benefit of individuals at the expense of a unified community.
Transport and congestion
More people than was originally envisaged in Melbourne with risk of political pressure to weaken Green Wedge regions. Also more risk to wildlife because of inexorable encroachment of their land & more interaction with human infrastructure. Balancing the disparate views of different sections of the population
Should this country lifestyle be destroyed by overdevelopment, this could become a suburban overcrowded area which will undoubtedly raise the cost of living on our land so our family may not be able to continue here which would be heart breaking as we do not want to develop but to remain here. The cultural heritage of places like Dunmoochin which is historically important, would be destroyed. Hurstbridge which is a historically important with a special culture also would be lost if overtaken by development, removal of trees or disruption of natural environment.
Traffic congestion
Providing a good range of sporting infrastructure with insufficient Council money to meet needs. Same with arts and culture.
Transport & infrastructure
The planned increases to Melbourne's population will obviously add to pressures on transport & infrastructure
To have good transport facilities. To attract more people willing to maintain the environment rather than profit from it.
Many of these I have touched on below. Better public transport is important and recent additions are very welcome. Cultural heritage is difficult - how far back do we go? I like what we have, but we should avoid being a Hollywood film set!
Open spaces and bush will be lost to development and our beautiful green wedge will be lost
Traffic will become more of a problem

Drugs are a major issue and providing healthy opportunities for young people. Crime is often a result of inequitable distribution of resources which then affects everyone as safety impacts us all. Mental health seems to be a growing issue.
Getting around with all the traffic is a disaster. People are getting irritated with all the congestion more road rage as a result.
Better access to assets like the Yarra River.
There is a risk of over population which can lead to anxiety and confrontation and too many people in a fire prone area of Victoria
Obviously traffic is increasingly ridiculous.
Traffic congestion mainly.
It will continue to worsen
I fear the local council is bowing to pressure from developers and trying to break down the protections on the Green Wedge. Instead of the current community, who have chosen to live here because of the Green Wedge and who love the environment, we may have an influx of people who simply want to make money from their property. This could well change the nature of the community for the worse.
Lack of sufficient, efficient, targeted, regular public transport will result in more hard surfaces and over engineered roads increasing gridlock which increases stress and illnesses in the residents.
Pressure from busy residents, workers and council to not care for this priceless attribute.
Ageing in place on ageing properties. Isolation of partners of the deceased. Fire danger of the elderly. Children leaving the community upon becoming of age. Consequent lack of services and recreational and employment opportunities for young people.
As per question 3
Travel to and from other parts of Melbourne for work if the area is populated further
Unless we stop population growth and further quantitative development through additional residential housing, transport and infrastructure will deteriorate, or we have to spend big to expand these services, which will come to the detriment of the environment. Health and wellbeing too will need injections - money that should better be spent on the repair of the environment, but people will demand human services before they demand environmental repair services. So, biodiversity will decline, climate change will only ascerbate it, bushfire danger - already high in this shire - will increase. We will need a strong regulatory body that keeps the potential environmental fallout from development to a minimum. I cannot see such a body yet, as our authorities at the moment seem to be more on the side of property development for population growth purposes rather than regenerative property development for the benefit of a healthy environment (also see Charles Massy's book "Call of the Reed Warbler")
Traffic management will be a major issue.
growing populations, even outside Nillumbik (e.g. in the city of whittlesea) will put pressure on Nillumbik's services, transport and facilities.
Need to improve public transport and facilities supporting public transport (parking, train-bus connections & services.) Preserving reserves for public & local use. Need to improve acknowledgement, education & awareness about Indigenous Heritage and the truth of what happened here - remove the mystery & misinformation about the real history.
Need better transport options within the Shire - especially for the elderly, disabled, anyone who can't afford to drive everywhere. People will want to stay in their own homes as they age, but need the support services to do so.
Slackening of community engagement and interest within my age group (under 25), less ties

to the region and are likely to leave the area in pursuit of better jobs or the entertainment centre's
Managing increasing population AND retaining the green wedge beauty AND doing so in a way that is cost effective for residences. This is not easy, AND it is not a trade-off of one against the other.
Population growth, traffic problems plus those listed in question 2
As I said before - the continuation of overdevelopment leads to infrastructure problems - particularly parking in the town centre and traffic congestion in and around Eltham.
Inappropriate developments and increased pressure will lead to a loss in social harmony. The opportunity for developing aboriginal cultural experiences and knowledge should be accessed as early as possible as with time further knowledge is lost. Lack of regular and convenient public transport will lead to further erosion of the value of the community as it increases pressure and discord.
<p>PUBLIC TRANSPORT.</p> <p>Ongoing challenges providing adequate public transport, including to access health services as well as schools, shops and business premises, and locations where community activities are held.</p> <p>Plus education re the availability and cost of such transport</p> <p>There are possibly more young inexperienced drivers on the road in the Green Wedge than in some other areas, as the poor public transport means that young people need an alternative to being driven by their parents as soon as possible.</p>
Worsening of our currently standard of living with terrible traffic snarls as even more people pour into the area.
There seems to be a demand for more facilities in smaller townships - this needs to be looked at. People living in these townships seem to want the facilities of Eltham, but not everything else that goes with living in a bigger/busier suburb. There can't be a swimming pool and a stadium and big playground and a big sportsground with a big pavilion, and a library, and a skate park and all these things in every town.
New roads and infrastructure will be required to help deal with the needs of a growing city. The Green Wedge should also involve traditional owners in all aspects decision-making and managing the area. The Wurundjeri can assist in provide cultural mapping, knowledge, cultural practice and care of country to all aspects on the Green Wedge. To help mitigate bushfire risks, cultural cool burning should occur in the community with appropriate education and awareness.
While Nillumbik is well blessed with community facilities there are challenges for remote communities in accessing those facilities and services. When we lose the ability to drive a car we are dependent on the help of friends and relatives. Council's transport initiatives help those who qualify but must be booked. If you live in Strathewen, don't even think about taxis and uber. This is a tricky issue and needs research and innovative solutions.
We need to increase the population of St Andrews to support local needs such as public transport and child care.
Increased population density will put pressure on local infrastructure
Lack of public transport, apart from weekends, past Hurstbridge
Isolation, Limited transport for the older members of the Green Wedge who no longer drive and do not have family to help. Difficulty of access to medical consultants, dentists etc.
Everyone appears to want facilities and services at their doorstep. It will be difficult to finance all of the demands.
That our area is resilient to the spreading trend to over develop and over populate .
maintaining communities
Melbourne's population growth, and the pressure on Nillumbik to take "its share", and thus spreading the social "downsides" of a big city.

The problem of climate change will effect every aspect of the future for all of us.
As populations increase, increasing pressure for development and innapropriate recreation (eg. mountain biking in sensitive areas) will put pressure on natural systems. ie- people seeking new areas to recreate in.
Overdevelopment. Lack of public respect for nature- eg using motorbikes in bushland where there are endangered powerful owls trying to nest. Lack of public transport to the area and increasingly congested roads.
This is not an inviting area to live and I cant imagine people would choose to live there
Ability for people to age in place. Ability for younger people to be able to get a foothold in area.
Loss of cultural heritage due change in population make up .
Continued population growth will mean that there will be more conflict amongst users and residents as to what infrastructure is needed/wanted (development Vs environmental impact). More recreation also has the potential to increase negative impacts such as dog waste, weed dispersal and rubbish on flora, fauna and amenity of parks and open spaces.
Traffic is continuing to increase - more residents, more people commuting.
The community, infrastructure and landscape will be threatened by the ongoing and unplanned population growth
I feel that people need to protect the green wedge however we have a right to live here safely too. I feel that eventually a lot of the old defenders of the green wedge will be gone and with them many of the existing values. With melbournes population bursting at the seams Things are bound to change.
The council/government must get transport out to the rural areas of the wedge
Development of appropriate roads (infrastructure) is a challenge. Pressure on increased subdivision is likely to continue, and be increasingly politicised Sense of community will decrease as urban sprawl/development continues or is allowed to increase
Stopping horses being allowed on shared trails.
Transport through the shire will be impacted by the increased traffic movements from the Whittlesea growth corridor. New infrastructure will be needed to be developed within the shire to manage this traffic.
Transport is a particular challenge and must be controlled in the Green Wedge by council
Community participation
Controlling growth to manageable levels, providing essential services, preserving the vital features of the Green Wedge, provision of transport, especially public transport. Balancing the needs of the area with the often unrealistic demands of both governments, and new residents.
Give some land back to the indigenous peoples and teach their history in schools or we will be come more and more disconnected from our hearts than we are now.
As population grows, resources will be stretched. I'm not sure if any community will be able to manage this issue.
It is well documented that trees and bushland provide a sense of wellbeing for the community. Yet people continue to move into treed areas and then with a fear of bushfires want to cut all the trees down. There seems to be a real split in the community as could be seen by C101 and C81. The council needs to show leadership and educate the community on the value of the native vegetation in a green wedge. Value to the whole of Melbourne.
Development prospects that are inadequately manage will threaten the social values of the Green Wedge.
public transport
Increasingly development pressures and inadequate enforcement fo planning control

continue to threaten multicultural heritage values.
Urban encroachment and increasing population density within area to get enough money from rates.
Community & Infrastructure
Recreational aspects will become limited due to subdivision - lack of bush and walking tracks.
More and more people are moving out here to be "close to Melbourne" in a pleasant, rural environment but they don't live by the "neighbourly" rules. Often because of long commute times to/from work and commitments, they don't become part of a community and this fragmentation means less volunteers in our small communities esp. CFA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Maintaining a connection to the Aboriginal heritage > Education of tourists and new residents > Balance between protection of flora & fauna and infrastructure conveniences, public transport!
Overcrowded and dangerous roads.
a lot
there will be more cars on the road and stuff like that
Overpopulation.
cultural and community
more building and units are being placed everywhere and I think that that will be a problem for the environment.
A lot of people will try to buy the land to make houses on it.
getting in and out of the green wedge is a big thing in Eltham.
In the future I think there will be more traffic.
I think in the future as the population grows public transport will get really busy. We will also have to build more houses which could cause some problems culturally wise.
getting in and out of places such as Eltham where many more people want to live.
The traffic situations
that more idiots will move in
<p>I think it is hard for people that don't live near very much public transport and think that some public transport should be added. There also isn't enough recreational opportunities in places like Hurstbridge.</p> <p>Another thing is that Nillumbik Youth Theatre cannot do a junior performance because they are not getting funding and it isn't fair.</p>
I think, because I live in the bush there aren't enough bus stops so it is really hard to get public transport.
Amount of businesses
because more people will have to move into the green wedge so they will have to make more transport and more housing estates with the population growing so the green wedge is more populated.
I think since we've got a growing population we might struggle to keep up. Soon people will be working less around here and probably forced to work in the city.
In order to provide new opportunities for people to engage with and enjoy the Green Wedge we will have to weigh up which activities - both in the urban and rural parts - are compatible with the new values. We must be careful to not allow small subdivisions on rural land, for instance.
Home help for the aging population.
Aging population (us included) opportunity for residents to age at home. Home care/transport / services.

<p>Helping to get newcomers outside in our efforts to conserve bio diversity. > Keeping good community relations which is very much the good of many good people here. Community festivals help allied to above.</p>
<p>I think that there will be greater pressure on the green wedge as population increases. Just have to see the amount of traffic that currently backs up in Warrandyte from about 3pm on.</p>
<p>visiting the area, living in the area, needs better road networks, and public transport that can move around the area, not caught in traffic</p>
<p>The overdevelopment of central Eltham and some other parts of Nillumbik is bringing to the shire new residents who have no affinity with the rural character of Nillumbik or its conservation values. Many people are coming to live in Eltham just because housing here is cheaper than in Doncaster or Templestowe or Heidelberg. Being cost conscious, they are concerned about the rates in Nillumbik and they will be seduced by those who argue that the way to reduce rates is to develop more housing.</p>
<p>Future challenges will depend upon what decisions are made today! Without public transport the young people cannot get around. This will result in an exodus of youth instead of a healthy transition between generations. Without medical professionals in the small villages, people will think twice about staying on into old age in situ.</p>
<p>more then I would like to think about</p>
<p>Pressure on local Cultural Heritage</p>
<p>Families move to Nillumbik for the wide open green spaces which are rapidly disappearing. Exiting homes being demolished and replaced with multi-dwelling developments, not what is needed in the green wedge.</p>
<p>Housing and aging population. No vision</p>
<p>The biggest challenge which is already here is upgrading the road and rail systems (dual railway line to Hurstbridge) to cope with the huge increases in volumes of people wanting to use the road and rail network in the area. Every one wants and needs these improvements but in a not in my back yard way, as soon as the authority responsible for any of the works announces a plan there is immediate out cry from people who believe they may be effected, so we never see the full benefit of these proposals as they get watered done to try and appease peopel</p>
<p>We need more opportunities for local people to engage and develop their own craft. Makers markets in each area, activities in Wattle Glen perhaps held at Peppers Paddock would be nice, either monthly or quarterly.</p>
<p>As more people move into the shire roads will become even more congested. I loive on KG Rd in Nth Warrandyte and it's terrible.</p>
<p>The importance of having green spaces for improved mental health, families to enjoy the treasures of the outdoor play/recreation experience are now being more & more developed & moving towards a surburbia/inner city living style. The magic of open space creates excellent environment outcomes which are also positively linked to improved health & well-being, community, cultural heritage, recreation, tourism, business development.</p>
<p>Transport and infrastructure will become the number one issue if it isnt already.</p>
<p>It is difficult to live in what looks like a rural environment but is not. There is not the same empathy and friendliness as in the country. Many, many will die in the next big bushfire if we are not allowed to clear eucalypts away from our homes for a safe distance - currently about 10 times what the Shire allows.</p>
<p>Keeping the area well maintained and not over populated to maintain its attractiveness will be difficult.</p>
<p>Inadequate public transport services.</p>
<p>After the fires we spoke to a council rep and made mention about the drugs and the dealers hanging around the school and he said that it did not matter I left that meeting crying and my husband in disbelief. It was even noted by someone working for the council that there is</p>

quite a bit of usage within the walls. You can't have drug users working for the council as they totally support it in the communities. I know it is everywhere but they should realise if they work for the council it can't be supported in the wider community. I still like to think they are a minority and should not be supported. Isolation goes hand in hand with not being accepting of this lifestyle for locals
<p>Demographic and the pressure on families to find alternatives to the accommodation of elderly and also adult children returning home.</p> <p>Continuing to foster a cohesive and inclusive community is imperative. This is only going to be achieved by the clear and unambiguous statement of the aims and values of the Green Wedge, that our citizens feel ownership of the values and stewardship of the Shire. Divisive policies are beginning to take their toll on community and will have detrimental long term effects.</p> <p>The pressure on Nillumbik's cultural heritage is considerable as many new residents are neither informed nor value the unique townships and cultural character that were a legacy of this area's artistic history.</p> <p>Landscape values, and their accessibility to the wider community are under threat from buildings of poor design and inappropriate character. The 'suburbanisation' of much of the Shire is endangering the very qualities that created it.</p> <p>Local employment, especially in local food production businesses is being hampered by both local and state regulations that are inflexible and outdated. They do not recognise the changing methods or standards of small scale production and the opportunities that they bring. Nillumbik should take a lead in this regard, as has Whittlesea, in promoting small scale agriculture and food production.</p>
A large increase in population will have a great impact on recreation facilities (provision of), a sense of community (and a loss of connection), a diluted appreciation of cultural heritage, pressure on the provision of public transport, fewer car parking spaces, an emphasis on high-rise development (with a consequent loss of the "Green Wedge" look and feel). The greater the population, the higher the crime rate. All of the above will have a social impact on the community.
As stated Nillumbik is 90 % Rural conservation, I truly believe we need a better public transport system heading out to communities like St Andrew Christmas Hills Cottles Bridge and Strathewen and Arthurs Creek. a Bus 2 - 4 times Daily.
Traffic. Ringroad needed.
The Green Wedge is an important area for the wellbeing of Melbourne as it keeps a special area with recreational activities, agriculture and living all work together. It is important to keep it the way it is so that the traffic around the area doesn't increase as it has an other areas where they have just allowed developments without planning for the future.
Too much traffic using nillumbik as a rat run through to doreen on one side and ringwood on the other. Our roads and communities are less safe, faster traffic (kids and horses therefore aren't as safe) more litter, potential for more crime ie robberies. Our area is not respected by those passing through daily.
People will be unequipped to adapt to the new status quo.
Loss of community feel as the area becomes more built up with more subdivisions approved. The green wedge will lose its appeal as a place to visit as it will no longer have that country feel - this is already happening!
The traffic is getting too much in and around the municipality
As people become more time poor then we need to encourage them to make time for recreation for their physical and social health
Lack of appropriate infrastructure, lack of public transport. We will lose our cultural heritage if we don't move to protect it now.
Over population because if you 'pave Paradise and put up a parking lot' it all goes down the shitter.

As above
With current direction our Nillumbik community is being split into two camps which will be difficult to reconcile
Increased public transport is needed.
Public transport will become a big issue, including parking around train stations. People should be encouraged to take public transport, making accessing transport hubs easier. Easier to walk, don't make the car king of the road. Think bikes and walking access.
See above: insufficient population to maintain public transport viability.
Over development and losing the 'green' feel of the area. Over representation of junk and take away food outlets.
Transport- as population increases in the Whittlesea corridor- more cars driving through Nillumbik when heading towards the Eastern and Southern suburbs. Increasing costs for maintaining recreation structure- especially ovals and pitches and sports pavillions
More people will want to live here. Some owners will want to divide their blocks to increase housing density. This should not happen.
Pressure from developers.
There is a flow on effect to being immersed in nature, open spaces and landscapes such as mental health and wellbeing. These will be undermined if trees and their natural environments are not appreciated for the incredible value they provide.
Lack of support for social needs of the community
Local Govt. Planning Schemes have become so complicated that a former senior planner at Nillumbik, Margaret Abbey, in her evidence at the VBRC that 'planning schemes are so complicated that even planners have difficulty interpreting them'. If experienced planners have trouble interpreting planning schemes, it leave me to assume that local govt. should be severely restricted in their use of Amendments and Overlays, on private property.
Support of aging population. Public Transport
Greater population in the Green Wedge will mean more need for public transport and this will mean greater spending on roads and infrastructure, More pressures on roads mean more congestion and greater threats in a bushfire situation.
Cost of providing fresh air to Melbourne. Transport from Doreen - Danang no money. Parking at stations - I'm not riding or walking on dangerous roads. Very expensive place to live and by laws are out of control. Money wasted on art is shocking - rotate what you own. Indoor pool for hursts it diamo cannot believe the money spent at Eltham for 2 more lanes, Eltham prestige is used rather than sharing in the shire. Shire needs to spend more in a fairer sustainable way. Too much development in shire without addition infrastructure- developers make their money and run and leave the council with the fall out.
Transport.. Not enough public transport and too many cars on the road
Transport - see previous comments
Maintaining our position as one of the healthiest places to live in Australia. Educating residents on living in a rural landscape, it's responsibilities, limitations as well as explaining biodiversity and it's value in preserving a viable landscape.
Based on previous answer, this will continue to get worse and worse with current council personal and strategy
Prices are rising and people cant afford the area. Local people cant afford to stay local.
Every council has to invest in these areas. I hope that the community is consulted always. If Nillumbik does this i think it will be a much smoother process.
That land owners will be guaranteed their existing land use not being turned back into all bush land .Should have the right to build a home on land you have purchased.
Public transport in our outer areas has been seriously neglected and must be given consideration. We have a growing older population who should be encouraged to maintain

their independence, and our stranded youth. Non-existent public transport means the older population driving on our roads are increasingly risking safety and the youth are increasingly becoming social 'risks' as they are totally reliant on their working parents to get them home. Instead they 'hang out' for extended periods of time and eventually often land in poor company.
Constant challenges from developers to change planning rules to financially benefit themselves at the expense of the rest of the community
It is going to be a challenge to preserve the green wedge under the pressure of property subdivision. There is, and will continue to be, a shortage of promotional information to inform people of the value of the green wedge not just to our shire but to the whole of Melbourne. The Green Wedge needs some more powerful spoke persons or champions.
A Green Wedge by definition has a very low density population which is appropriate and allows for the protection of the environment and the visual landscape. Dense areas of rooftops, giant sheds, trucks and stacks of containers don't belong in a genuine Green Wedge and the challenge us to rein in unsightly development. Just because someone owns a block of land in the Green Wedge to treat it as defacto industrial land. Any business needs to be appropriate and sympathetic to the surroundings.
* Providing for safe, off-road trails and linkages throughout the shire and to neighbouring municipalities to the North East * Strategies for 'aging in place'
Challenges of increased development and population growth with accompanying increase in traffic adding to the threats to wildlife and our precious biodiversity
I think the Green Wedge will face a future challenge if it continues to be destroyed by inappropriate development and subdivision. The cohesive local community will be impacted and the existing sense of community, which is so apparent these days, will likely disappear.
Due to housing prices out here still being reasonable I think we'll see more young families which will in turn require better buses for schools, and more child care facilities
Increasing hardship for families as domestic economies erode and more people seeking habitable places to live.
We currently have the best of both worlds in the Green Wedge. We have rural living with all the amenities with in easy distance. It actually doesn't get better than what we have now. We don't need to change the Green Wedge we need to change our attitudes. If you don't love it, leave it and if you love it, leave it alone.
The bushfire threat becomes increased as population density increases in the area - too hard to leave if necessary, and demands on limited resources to save property.
Every one is aging so the dependence is becoming greater
I think the roads will become busier as other shires expand around Nillumbik. The major link is imperative to avoid congestion on our narrow roads that are not designed for large traffic volumes.
Pressure on growth will mean more roads will be built or existing ones widened, more trains will be needed, more pressure on recreation land and resources. This can be managed with consultation with the community, not opaque decisions made by council who then feel they need to aggressively defend them.
Demographic changes. Need more housing for ageing population who want to remain in Nillumbik. Need well designed housing and not cookie cutter tiny shoe boxes. Also, a growth in families means increased services for young children.
Not allow so much development that it becomes too populated.
Too many cars on the roads. Roads are too narrow and can't cope. Also, too many traffic lights, which creates bottlenecks.
Keeping people safe and out of high fire risk areas. We need to stop development in high risk fire areas. Public transport needs to be expanded in the area to reduce the dependency

on the car and reduce congestion and pollution. Retaining and protecting the natural environment for everyone's health and well being.
Lots more building in certain areas will increase congestion and put pressure on the green wedge.
'- Ageing property owners wanting to stay in home/on property and needing some assistance. - Unmet service provision with sporting facilities, particularly for basketball.
Road access in and out of eltham is difficult everyday a d s bushfire risk with the exploding popular making it worse
Crowding on roads and public transport
Pressure to subdivide
All of the above if it is to remain "the Green Wedge".
The urban fringe will remain a hotspot for the Green Wedge with continued pressure for development. Achieving the right balance between, on the one hand, the extreme environmental agenda of some groups and, on the other hand, local land owners peaceful enjoyment of their property will remain a challenge.
Why is this survey constantly referring to 'challenges' as if there are no positives.
Lack of ethnic diversity means culture not diverse. Not forward thibking
The artist community must be supported as new residents move in. This is part of what makes this area unique. Also attention to the unique architecture of the area is vital to preserve this part of the suburb....
health and well being can be greatly compromised, if private landowners are not held accountable and responsible for appropriate land management. If our environment is under pressure/impacted on negatively - we all suffer, in particularly, children and young people.
Need to protect the amenity of the green wedge that epitomizes what so many people value in the Shire.
Without appropriate consideration of facilities for horse riding (eg off-road trails) and ability to practically keep horses on property, the council will face much criticism.
An ageing population will be looking for affordable housing which is flat, treed, close to transport , shops and medical facilities, in familiar townships, but not high-density!
Combining human needs for transport and possible added infrastructure with maintaining the environmental needs of native creatures will have to be finely balanced. More traffic and wombats and kangaroos could prove a big problem.
Social challenges for the future will be the mismatch of residents values and aspirations. There will be those who live in the GW because they love and value it. And those who want a Toorak mansion but can't afford to live in Toorak and try to recreate it here where it is not appropriate.
Bushfire is likely to be a major issue one day. It can be quite scary driving through there on a hot day with a strong northerly wind.
Depending on the outcome of this review and state planning regulations.....loss of community ..values, culture, well being, problems with transport if population increases,
A current and future challenge is to honour the perspective of the traditional custodians of the land, the Wurundjeri people, and to make sure this has high priority in shaping future planning.
increase in amount of people using infrastructure
'- Growth obsession will lead to higher population density - This in turn could dilute social cohesion as non like-minded people (eg. city clickers) may try to change the landscape, loss of cultural heritage. - Road congestion - Demand for health services

<p>Don't want an interchange anywhere near this area - eg. proposed in Donvale/Park Orchards area - it would destroy the area and surrounding areas (physically, environmentally, lifestyle) and bring traffic to the area (plus pollution). Things must be done to stop people using Warrandyte as a way to get to/from work - Fitzsimons Lane should not have a noise/other curfews - Warrandyte Research/Ringwood roads should have, they are thin and windy and like country roads. And people live right near them.</p>
<p>Balancing the recreational enjoyment of a growing population against protecting the integrity of the Green Wedge environment: we must not destroy the characteristics which attract people to the area by inappropriate building and roads. Our society needs natural, treed spaces to regenerate minds and bodies. As our cities become more densely built our green spaces become more precious. Important to educate and involve our children and youth to experience and appreciate the natural environment: walking it, photographing it, and camping in it instead of screentime.</p>
<p>The Green Wedge will be under threat into the future, it is important to preserve what we have her into the future.</p>
<p>Limited public transport esp for youth</p>
<p>people moving in the with expectation that they are still in the city. expecting 100km hr roads, footpaths and services such as buses every 20 minutes</p>
<p>Strengthening the planning schemes and investing in the enhancement and improvement of our public places is necessary to maintain our landscapes for future generations.</p>
<p>Maintaining a community as the surrounding population grows and impinges...</p>
<p>Social pressure from nearby suburbs (e.g. Eltham) and from within the Green Wedge to prevent ANY development, rather than take a pro-active and controlled approach of ensuring that areas along the railway lines should be higher density, and allow for tourism accommodation (hotels, bed and breakfasts, camping grounds etc) in the Green Wedge itself. The Green Wedge is not just a pretty backyard for Eltham house-owners - it has to be economically viable for the people who live in it and make their living within it. Otherwise it just becomes a dormitory area for rich people each of whom wants a horse menage, a tennis court and a few alpacas - but doesn't allow for businesses that actually employ people.</p>
<p>lack of ability to manage the competing demands of low revenue growth to the political pressure from the over greens to urban growth pressures and the community wanting facilities such as more parking, better rail service, accommodation and conference centres, aged care facilities etc.. can Nillumbik meet the housing change needed to support ageing population - the need for granny flats...mum and dad stay at home in the granny flat - kids occupy the main dwelling - kids look after mum and dad changing the boundaries of the green wedge it makes no sense that a major public transport asset (rail to the city) has the green wedge overlays around it - housing and business development should be increased around the rail - lifting rate revenues and fostering economic development and employment opportunities - negotiate with state government for additional green wedge land from areas where development is not as beneficial to the community Bridge Street Eltham typifies the lack of ability to manage the green Wedge and people</p>
<p>Increased crime and drug problems</p>
<p>The rapid expansion of the Mernda/Doreen growth corridor into Donnybrook means that immediately adjacent to the green wedge will be a very large population of people who have very little social and cultural amenity but who live very close to a large green environment which is largely inaccessible apart from a capacity to drive through it. The current planning limit of 100 acres on development means social spaces such as wineries/restaurants/cafes etc where this population can avail themselves of the social and cultural amenity of the green belt and enjoy its ambience will be very limited. My view is that a key function of the</p>

green belt needs to provide amenity to this population.
See previous answer in question 2
There is documented proof that people living in a green environment enjoy improved mental and physical well being. If the Green Wedge is further developed in future then our green environment will suffer.
One challenge has been arguing with certain people about how best to protect the green wedge. Another has been coping with the community hub known as the St Andrews Hotel being poorly managed
New residents not understanding or supporting the stated Green Wedge values
If overdevelopment were to continue, our social requirements would need to increase and these never meet expectations.
As trees come down this will / does attract people looking for cheap land so they can clear it for more intense housing. Green Wedge is under threat
Transport
With Council currently reducing the number of Council Officers employed to run community programs, these may close without Councils support when they should be expanding.
Population growth will put increasing pressure on housing affordability and availability, pressure on the environment due to higher density development leading to loss of habitat for plants, birds and animals, and reduced amenity for citizens. Traffic congestion will increase.
It is really important to improve the train service eg double the track so as to increase the frequency of the trains. But to do it sensitively. It is also important to keep increasing the network of recreational trails - Diamond Ck to Hurstbridge is just one but there should be lots more eg extending the Aqueduct Trail from Research over to Sugarloaf.
Pressure from population growth and developers. Creeping urbanisation. Destruction of natural habitat for flora and fauna. Over regulation of land owners in fire protection activities
Increased traffic and urban sprawl affecting the quality of life for Nillumbik residents, and impacting upon the Green Wedge itself. Many areas in the Shire are unsuitable for intensive development due to the serious bushfire risk across most of the Shire, and thus any development needs to be carefully considered.
This GWMP process should not be a means to promote the ability to subdivide. Subdivision is not an automatic right. It is the recommendation from the Bushfire Royal Commission "to ensure that development does not occur in areas in which either the bushfire risk or the environmental cost of making people safe is too high".
As the population grows, or seeks to grow, in the Green wedge it puts pressure for the development of small old titles. This inevitably leads to fragmentation and higher land values and higher rates. It can lead to a change in perceptions around land uses in agriculture that are best practice and continuing uses. This can lead to tension and at worst campaigns that seek to prevent agriculture carrying out standard tasks. Sensible discussions and decisions can prevent this.
If we lose or reduce our green spaces we will have reduced mental health. We will also lose our community spirit - I love going to my local landcare group and helping pick up rubbish and plant trees. If there were less green spaces there would be no landcare.
Need green spaces for improved mental health.
Transport is a problem with high reliance on private cars. Improved public transport
Socially as we are doing now, having to stand up for and try and protect what was already in place for its protection
The new population centres require new roads & public transport options to stop towns like Hurstbridge being choked by traffic. Wildlife needs to be considered and wildlife over- or under-passes constructed as part of any new roads. Wildlife corridors need to be created, maintained and treasured.

The projected doubling of Melbourne's population in the next 30+ years - and the immediate increase of 100 000 new residents per year that is part of that expansion - means huge new pressures on infrastructure: land, housing, transport, amenities of all kinds, and therefore on local government.
The population of Nillumbik is ageing. With out serious planning to encourage a new generation of agriculture and farming there will be enormous pressure on property owners to subdivide their land. This is the worst possible outcome for the economy and environment of the Green Wedge.
Too much pressure on infrastructure due to neighbouring growth corridors.
An example that already exists is:- The local private school [previously mentioned] only cares about it's own internal "community", but they utilise that word as though they are encompassing the whole area around it. This is very much and definitely not the case. So, we view your question in terms of how developing businesses and future developments will only care about their own self-interests and not about the Shire/State/Nation as whole, whether it is a school, real estate operator or whatever. Our opinion is that Green Wedge communities will not be better off.
The community will have difficulty resisting increasing pressure for inappropriate residential, tourism and business development in the green wedge which will further fragment and degrade it.
Keeping up with recreation and infrastructure for the growth areas within the shire as these are not in the Green wedge areas but adjoining suburbs. Smaller buses should be used between transport nodes.
Warrandyte is one of the most popular places to live and visit and why? TREES TREES RIVER and TREES!
'For all points ticked - there is so much pressure to act in ways that do not protect our environment and give favour to land clearing and housing. We MUST resist this quick money grab approach. Once our green spaces are gone they're pretty much gone for good. - as a community we must find a way forward that respects our environment. The green Wedge has been declared for a good reason and if we keep placing emphasis on housing in the same ways we will lose our greatest value. Keep the bush wherever it is - in small strips among houses in eltham or along creeks or in greater sized parks. Everywhere. Housing can become denser where there is no vegetation. We cannot afford to lose more habitat. We see the stress on animals and this reflects the true stresses on our place. We have opportunities to be really clever with our housing, our power, our economy, our planning, and we must take these opportunities now.
I hope the current interest in, and respect for the traditional owners of this area will continue to be valued, and the stories of the original inhabitants are not lost. I also value the artistic heritage, and would not like to see commercial pressures compromising the spaces and opportunities to further develop this aspect of our Shire.
Financial
Creating improved public transport and improved road network without damaging existing natural vegetation.
If the area becomes densely populated it will place a huge pressure on infrastructure with air pollution, water pollution and difficulty to park. Already some streets (Bible st, Eltham) has cars parked on either side of the road. Railway parking is also very difficult.
Our biggest problem to present itself to the region is infrastructure er; transport and instrumentalities.
Pressure from nearby urban growth. We are being overrun by rubbish dumpers and traffic moving too fast fro the narrow country roads. Affordable housing.
With the population growth in the urban areas, Nillumbik will need to improve its rate base to provide for more sporting facilities, more services, advocating for more schools for Diamond

Creek, improved roads, aged care facilities to enable residents to age in place (perhaps the elderly are no longer able to live on large acreage was smaller in the green wedge they could stay in place.
More residential land needs to be released as many young couples are unable to purchase and build locally and are forced to move away from family and friends. land along the Eltham/Hurstbridge railway line, plus the Eltham Main Sewer line should be released for housing development as the infrastructure required is already in place. A new railway station at Alandale Road has been mooted for many years and would help relieve parking at the Diamond creek, Eltham and Greensborough stations and would also benefit Research and Kangaroo Ground residents.
Given the increased population forecast for Victoria and the reliance on public transport it makes no sense at all to have a minimum 8ha subdivision size adjacent and close to a metropolitan railway line.
Transport and infrastructure
Transport & infrastructure
Addressing the concerns of those itemised that have been experienced by those living on rural allotments on the urban fringe. Addressing public opinion of urban residents that have an unrealistic sense of entitlement. restoring property rights to those effected landowners.
Population explosion of Melbourne putting pressure on bush and farm land.

Please tell us about the environmental challenges you think Nillumbik's Green Wedge will face in the future.

Nillumbiks needs to realise that sensitive develop can work in harmony with the environment. The challenge is to realise that there is a balance that can benefit both. By having too much emphasis placed on the environment means people will not put the money in to maintain properties and it is a downward spiral. People and the environment lose.
Same idiots who can't tell a weed from native grass telling me how i should save the planet.
Preserving the green wedge for future generations. Developers will want to open up the land for profit, which would destroy the environmental value of the area for the people of Melbourne.
Bush fire risk
Trying to maintain green space as population and demand for infrastructure increases
Boundary alterations as a result of Melbourne's endless population growth (no consideration of alternatives}. Planning and management arrangements not up to the task.
Developers, developers, developers. And long periods of hot, dry weather.
The green wedge is in good shape for the future, there will be a need to control the increasing number of kangaroos and feral deer.
The environment is important but it is only part of where emphasis should be. It needs to be understood and accepted that people live here, and this can be successfully managed while conserving the environment, NOT PRESERVING it which has been the approach to date. Climate change for instance will see larger and fiercer bushfires, so if the bush is not managed appropriately there is the potential for EVERYTHING to be lost for ever.
Sub-divison and over population. For years now, a minority have wanted to sub-divide the Green Wedge in Nillumbik. The current council is a supporter of that concept, sadly.
We will always have bushfires, after learning from Black Saturday, we must be diligent. Residents of the Green Wedge must be made to clear their properties according to the Law and to be vigilant when burning off.
Isolation brings lack of utilities, increased fire risks.
Rate payers own the majority of greenwedge but are over regulated and under valued.
Only pockets of bush will be left; loss of biodiversity and essence of our home
Spread of noxious weeds. Fire
Pressure to subdivide to allow for the ever increasing population of Melbourne and pressure from some land owners and Councillors who are keen for this to happen. And a possible change in the direction of State Government which could make this possible. I am concerned about climate change and the long term effects. I am not concerned so much about bushfires - the only safe place to be on a "catastrophic" day is not at home. It concerns me that some residents only see the bush as a place to drive their 4wd's in and a Place which needs "control".
Increasing population, landowner greed. Blocks are becoming smaller and we're losing open space to estates. Wildlife is threatened (the roadkill rate is horrific!) Areas are becoming sanitised - box after box after box, all nice and neat and bland. With that come shopping centres, highrise, traffic congestion etc - all the things that I dislike Melbourne for and which I wanted to avoid. People bend the environment to their will, rather than living with what was there before they arrived. Overdevelopment will kill the Wedge. (Thanks to the local Council.)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attribute an economic value to trees and preserved open space. 2. Land values in urban sections of the Shire will only remain high if tree canopy and a green streetscape is preserved (otherwise it will just look like another Watsonia or Macleod etc) 3. Nillumbik must play an active roll in limiting species extinction (flora and fauna) 4. Bushfire risk will largely be mitigated if weeds are controlled throughout the Shire. <p>European grasses drive fires.</p>

5. The health of the Yarra river, plenty river and diamond creek is an essential component of the success of this Green Wedge Shire. Tourists won't travel to see weedy, rubbish strewn tributaries.
Too many people and too much develop.ent
See my earlier comments. Over and above them there are all the challenges of global warming, made worse by the retrograde Federal policies of denial and hypocrisy. In that context, the Shire should be initiating discussions to retain Diamond Creek in any decent state. This means reasonably early reduction, even cessation of irrigation along the Kinglake range. It also means cancelling the quite ridiculous drawing of water by Amatil for sale in plastic bottles.
Landscape faces threats from developers, VCAT decisions, department of planning recklessness.
Solving problems outlined above. In terms of life preservation , bushfires are the most serious. Innovative building design to reduce danger should be supported and fast tracked. Reduction of fire hazards within 100 m of dwellings should be encouraged on larger acreages - say above 5ha or on properties adjoining thick native flora. Feral animals should be eliminated, preferably not by poisoning. Maybe a local rabbit and venison business should be supported.A warming climate with less rain could be the most serious challenge.
The challenge to the green wedge will come from the little "nibbling" away, rezoning, greedy humans all wanting to make a quick buck at the expense of our planet. We'll bring more people in who will then panic about bush fires and clear the land which in turn will destroy the biodiversity and sustainability of the area. Then there is no green wedge there is just a Melbourne suburb.
Fire risk. Reserves need to be maintained and allow horse riding along the tracks within
The crowding will put pressure on the environment
There still appears to be a resistance to the fact that we are experiencing climate change - and its particular impacts on this Shire - and the fact that it is largely the result of human action. A simple graph shows the increase of carbon in the atmosphere at exactly the time of the start of the Industrial Revolution in England, with its rapid increase in the burning of coal. The challenge for Nillumbik is to play an active role in reducing the planet's greenhouse emissions. This means NSC needs to commit to being carbon free in its business by 2020, and make extra commitments to the planting of indigenous species throughout the Shire (not just where there are volunteers).
Bushfire, always a worry. We need some burn offs. Kangaroos will need to be sensibly culled so that they do not starve in the summer, I have seen this also pests ..foxes and deer need controlling
Loss of habitat, destruction of significant environmental corridors, threats to flora and fauna
Developers
Bushfire, urban sprawl, keeping our open space and responding to increased population, people wishing to downsize and age in place.
Population growth, need to increase clean energy, habitat destruction, etc
As previous. Weather and climate. Invasive species including poorly controlled domestic cats and dogs, foxes, rabbits...
Warming climate. Greater bushfire risk. Water supply concerns. Degradation of natural environment. Feral animal management issues. Loss of native species.
Climate change is expected to increase bushfire frequency and severity in the green wedge - the area is not configured to deal with this - ground fuel build up is too high and has not been managed since the fires 10 years ago This is the biggest risk to the wedge over the long term More people coming to and driving through the area - and the traffic has been steadily

<p>increasing for 12 years - presents an ongoing and increasing risk to wildlife - compounded by planted out roadside reserves where wildlife can not be seen before it launches itself out in front of a car/truck</p> <p>The growth corridor next door can be expected to increase pressure on the far north part of the wedge to be re-zoned urban - we can resist this as a whole community - but right now the likelihood of the whole community doing this is negligible - landowners will not support the environmental extremists in the district for as long as they continue to wish them ill and lie - which is a barrier to collective action.</p>
<p>Farming land decreasing. Land neglected, allowed to be over grown by blackberries and other noxious weeds and allowed to 'go back to nature' by city purchases with no understanding of the need to plan and prepare for bush fires. Future bush fires could encroach residential areas.</p>
<p>Too much traffic</p>
<p>The current councillors who seem intent on pushing through more and more development rather than protecting the green wedge for future generations. Greater pressure on ecosystems and biodiversity as more development occurs.</p>
<p>I think people moving into the area will have an attitude that because they have bought land, it is their right to do with it what they wish, without any thought for the needs of our local flora and fauna!</p>
<p>Changing climate = greater risk of bushfires & severe weather. Increase in urban sprawl & cars on the road impacts on loss of habitats for wildlife & increasing cases of car/wildlife accidents</p>
<p>Same as we are now</p>
<p>The environment is being ruined by increased development and land clearing plus fencing that prevents the movement of wildlife.</p>
<p>Nillumbik has before lead the nation on waste reduction. The introduction of the GROW system was revolutionary and many councils still don't collect or divert green waste as it's cheaper and easier to send it to land fill. Sustainability through water use reduction and green initiatives like solar and low voltage electrical usage is the way forward.</p>
<p>Pressure to develop due to population growth . Lack of forethought for the future and exasperation of Climate Change due to landclearing . Pressure on water resources as land is cleared and watercourses become degraded and diminished . Loss of biodiversity -- the full effects of which we are only just beginning to understand .</p>
<p>I think Nillumbik's Green Wedge will continue to face environmental losses and decline in biodiversity unless all who live in the Green Wedge accept that it is their responsibility to look after their land and not indulge in practices that will continue this decline. More enforcement of existing regulations is required to stop people thinking they can do what they like on their land. Council is very welcome to visit our property and always has been.</p>
<p>Bush fires will always be a concern in our area. We need to be able to clear some of the dead trees and logs for safety but not to denude areas of land.</p>
<p>Ongoing pressure to urbanise and destroy the natural environment while council either looks the other way, or actively permits this.</p>
<p>Development pressures money against irreplaceable green space</p>
<p>Overdevelopment and the chipping away at the green wedge for housing</p>
<p>Destruction of soil, waterways, flora & fauna corridors by infrastructure of the built environment for the sake of individual profit.</p>
<p>As stated above, the ever increasing influx of additional (second and sometimes third) residences on what should be single residence lots. The focus on tourism is for the benefit of commercial enterprises, which is often to the detriment of the environment and residents.</p>
<p>Getting the right balance between increasing the area of natural environment and primary</p>

industry. Improving habitat for native animals. Getting rid of deers, rabbits, cats and foxes. Bushfire control.
Weed species and feral animals, pollution in the creeks and waterways, DEVELOPMENT!!! The development of the shire is ruining its uniqueness. Money talks and somehow those with the \$\$ are managing to buy up or sell off areas that should be preserved. Wildlife corridors are being broken leading to death and decline in native animals who have nowhere to go. Despite some efforts, not enough is being done to preserve nature which is The Green Wedge and is why we live here.
I am concerned about the loss of habitation from the yang yan rd upgrade. I have heard unsubstantiated rumors that the yarrambat golf course and adjoining venues are going to be rezoned for housing which I would strongly object to. (I have heard this from many people)
See above. Wildlife & the environment is totally disregarded by some people who see fit to trash & kill as they wish. Risk that tourism will aggravate these problems
Obviously without the Biodiversity Projects and the constant efforts to remove weeds and save species which have been encouraged and financially supported by the present GWDP and DELWYP, environmental work by so many volunteers would continue but not having the council support in many ways would be a great loss, and a discouragement. The Interspersing of developments would dissipate the continuity of the habitat corridors of wild life species which would be diminished & Flora species would be greatly affected or lost such as rare native orchids, frogs would vanish and insects as well as many birds.
Continuing destruction of habitat will diminish the native flora and fauna. Much of this will be done under the umbrella of economic development. The economic costs of biodiversity loss will not be included in Council economic calculations.
Until the Council makes massive changes in the GWMP and in the related planning scheme, then property owners will continue to be faced by a nightmarish bureaucracy. Property owners will continually have to fight the Council. The environmental problems of the region will continue for as there is no agreement with the property owners. If the Government wants to save the environment, they should spend money on it rather than force property owners to bear all costs. Until that time, there challenges will continue. The environment isn't permanently protected until the economic and property matters are resolved.
The challenge will trying to keep it the way it is and letting it be over developed.
Climate change will impact, especially given current poor political attitude to the problem.
Too much influence from Green pressures especially from non residents
Too many people buy properties in the Green Wedge thinking they can do anything they want on 'their' land regardless of the purpose of the Green Wedge and regardless of the impact on others. Council should be the primary guardian of the Green Wedge for the Community and the future Wild deer are a real problem - on the land and on the roads!
It has been reported in the media lately that the population of Australia is expected to increase by many millions. As the population increases, the survival of the Green Wedges will be even more crucial. State and Local Governments need to resist the temptation to weaken the rules put in place to protect these "open spaces" for future generation.
To maintain the natural environment and regenerate it.
Increasing population and wealth puts pressure on things like Green Wedge in terms of appropriate development, and the assessment of appropriateness is often very subjective. Climate change leads to increased loss of biodiversity and risk of fires. Many newer residents (and some older ones!) don't understand environmental issues.
Over development and degradation of the natural environment. Weakening of measures to protect the environment.
Over development is ruining Nillumbik

1. If there is a bushfire, residents will be unable to leave (because of road congestion).
2. Keeping the Green Wedge, with encroaching development
The push for housing and development, from the local council will be the demise of the Green Wedge as we know it. This must stop.
Climate change and the high risk of bushfire / floods
Climate change causing bushfire danger. Pressure of population growth on open space reserve measures.
Kangaroos and other wildlife are losing their habitat and are more exposed to human environment. Too many being killed on our roads. Need safe crossings and no more development.
The Green Wedge is a highly valued area by our community. The threat to change this by reducing the size of minimum land subdivision would mean more houses and less trees. The loss of habitat is also a major concern for our native wildlife.
How to allow redevelopment of properties with out being obsessive about environmental issues.
I'm concerned about the ongoing conservation of native ecosystems, I'm worried that over development could result in a less green Green Wedge.
I think the Green Wedge is always under threat which consequently puts the environment under threat.
as previously noted changes that have a negative impact on the green wedge beliefs
Maintaining the rural landscape and vistas
I think too much bush will be cut down for houses and the blocks will become smaller
Too much pressure on public spaces and natural areas from development and growing populations
The concern is the pressure on our flora and fauna from over population and inappropriate development and land use.
Climate change will increasingly impact the environment and it is very disappointing and grossly negligent to future generations that so little is being done.
Those brought about by climate change
Bushfire is always a present summer threat that we all must prepare for and never get complacent
Obviously no re-development. Great outcome on no sale of public land!
The Green Wedge spans councils. Unilateral council decisions and regulations affect the WHOLE Green Wedge and must be addressed as a whole eco-system. I object to this survey focusing solely on "Nillumbik's" Green Wedge". Challenges: Compromising the Green Wedge. Councils and governments responsible for the Green Wedge not placing the environment before urban growth and council income. Councils overriding reports of environmental experts. Pressure to turn the green wedge into another densely populated suburb of the ever-expanding urban sprawl. Concrete, tarmac, high-density living, traffic. Without greater regional planning, roads and public transport - even if we retain the green wedge it becomes a transit for growing outer suburbs. Maintaining a clean river with flooding to support flora and fauna.
As for 2 above.
Following on the above, developers push for smaller and smaller subdivision of their land, in order to maximise their profits. So, more trees are cut down, more land is cleared, more birds and animals lose their habitat, and the local people lose the ambience they paid to enjoy.
As above - wildlife killed on roads and populations of plants and animals both directly impacted or separated by over developement; bushfire paranoia allowing excessive clearing

which is known not to necessarily save lives in a fire. Lack of funding for management of natural bushland areas on all land tenures resulting in species decline and loss; lack of education for private landholders on how to manage bush blocks; over grazing of pastureland.
Bushfires are a threat to this area. Climate Change will exacerbate extreme and violent weather such as drought.
Climate change changing the ecosystem and weather patterns
More and more pressure on habitats and biodiversity as council shifts it priority to money, business and an anti environmental agenda.
Pressure to reduce or develop the green wedge. Bushfire risk due to climate change.
I think a lot of people stand to make a lot of money if the green wedge subdivision and other planning rules are removed. If they are removed I think the Green Wedge will face enormous biodiversity and environmental challenges. The area already faces bushfire challenges and I know that and still want to live there. I think people who aren't ok with the bushfire risk shouldn't live there. I think all of the world is already dealing with terrible climate change effects, not just Nillumbik.
Growing population will see more units built. Open spaces will disappear, more trees will go. We will lose more bird life.
Development pressures. Council policy instability - some restrictions on development need to be legislated. People who buy here need to understand they are buying into a permanent circumstance. Climate change. Some water based agricultural activities are challenged by climate change. Properties need to be self sufficient and NOT reliant on subsidies for thier endeavours.
The challenge our green wedge faces is the same as the others face - relentless population pressure to move the urban growth boundary, to densify and build, build, build. The answer is for governments to get serious about decentralisation, to leave the UGBs where they are and to stop the curse of higher-density development that is destroying our city. Instead, governments play the anti-densifiers off against the green wedgers, with the the anti-densifiers happen to destroy the green wedges and the supporter of green wedges happy to destroy the rest of Melbourne.
The decline of the green wedge due to development. Only the council can protect the Green Wedge and determine to not allow developers to desimate it. The Green Wedge has the potential to create more revenue from tourism if the area is kept green and beautiful. A short distance break from the city.
Pressure by developers and council to increase commercial, residential and recreation al development in inappropriate areas (e.g. think by Eltham North Reserve and along Main Road in North Eltham) and at an inappropriate size.
The environment risks being destroyed by the greed of individuals and decision-makers who are working from outdated and irrelevant economic models based on construction and development indexes. Our planet is in crisis and the Council wants to see more development and more consumption..
see above
The conflicting and continual push by some in the community to weaken legislative protection of the Green Wedge. The continual and environmentally detrimental push by developers and opportunistic speculators to expand the residential precincts at the expense of larger blocks of land and Green Wedge protected areas.
New Estates mean more strain on the habitats of our wildlife. Also educating newcomers on responsible planting and bushfire awareness.
See previous answer - an extension and heightening of the current challenges. Also, as land prices near the city soar and landowners sense a profit from subdividing they will pressure local government to change planning schemes.

The pressure to develop in ways that diminish the value of our Green Wedge is always present.
Preserving and nurturing the Green Wedge & the ecosystems. Preventing further encroachment by development. Better preparation for bushfire management.
Climate change will continue to impact us and our natural environment, locally and regionally. Our challenge is to adapt and do things differently and to put the environment first.
Loss of environmental integrity from population increases and economic motivations (developments) Biodiversity: depending on how the green wedge is protected, species could be lost if areas of conservation aren't connected along the traditional migratory/hunting/seasonal movements of animals. The benefits of preservation are largely lost if they are vulnerable to human interference or restricted to small isolated geographical locations
Our Green Wedge faces a concerningly uncertain future. It must be protected. We need to protect it - especially in the face of Climate Change. Don't let ignorant humans destroy or further erode our Green Wedge. PLEASE!!
Continued destruction of biodiversity by selfish landowners unnecessarily clearing vegetation, overgrazing, motorbikes and poor land management practices.
Disconnection from Land, and all those listed in question 2. some species will become extinct if not cared for.
More of the same ...Increasing pressure on the space that we treasure and while happy to share much of the experience we have of the bush - a sense that if this goes unregulated, the very fabric of our communities will be under threat. Need for careful planned balance in going forward.
Meeting the growing demand for housing, due to population growth, will no doubt continue to apply pressure to areas of the countryside. The challenge will be to manage housing and population growth in sustainable ways which do not erode the precious areas which still provide a habitat for wildlife and which support biodiversity.
We need to preserve our natural flora and fauna. Preserve our endangered species. Our massive gums, our native flowers all need to be retained. Less development is crucial.
Developments in the Green Wedge (outside of the designated townships) will lead to the slow and systematic destruction of the value of the area. The disruption of wildlife corridors and inappropriate tree and bush removal diminishes the biodiversity. The bushfire prevention regime needs to adopt the mosaic cold burn techniques used for many thousands of years.
The unrelenting onslaught from population pressures, developers and business entrepreneurs will exert enormous pressure on the Green Wedge to create even more suburbs and business precincts. The economic development lobby, who have plenty of money to advertise and hire lawyers, will apply enormous pressure on decision makers to relax restrictions that protect the Green Wedge.
The risk of bushfire and the economic and physical challenges of preparation The challenge of protecting the Green Wedge environment while maintaining safety The need to educate residents re the risk of fire and appropriate action to prevent/prepare, especially those who are new to the area. The need to counter current beliefs and convince residents that the Council is not there to do the bidding of developers
Feral deer, rabbits nothing is done about it by residents or council.
The threat to biodiversity from development and urban growth and diminishing green wedge area.
Too much subdivision. Smaller housing lots which means more development and traffic. Destruction of the wildlife corridor. Loss of biodiversity, flora and fauna.
1. Inappropriate development is the top threat. Includes the prospect of large houses on large clearings on undersized lots.

2. Unthinking landowners are next - with unsympathetic building projects and exotic plantings
Degradation of biodiversity due to climate change; increased road kills of wildlife; increased removal of indigenous vegetation by landowners and developers. Reduced air quality due to increased prescribed burning locally and in nearby forests, logging burns in nearby forests; local burning off; and domestic fires.
Worsening litter clagging up our paddocks causing illness and death in our livestock.
I think the challenges, as stated in the previous question is a challenge for everyone, not just myself.
Incremental development as land values increase and people want to build there dream hobby farm and mansion
Protection of environmental values and reserves (including waterway corridors) needs to be a priority in the coming decades and Melbourne's populations continues to grow and expand through the middle and outer suburbs.
Climate change will put a lot of pressure on the environment and biodiversity and the Green Wedge may need to declare an environment emergency to help manage the environment and biodiversity into the future. The Green Wedge has some unique flora and fauna and stronger efforts should be made to manage and improve species diversity as well as community education and awareness.
This is the big one. We love our access to the beauty of Nillumbik the green wedge shire. Inevitably, change will happen. Australia seems destined for a much higher population so there will be pressure for housing and not all in the current development areas. We must manage these pressures and defend our environment against people who care, and know, nothing about it. Commercial and political eyes will be looking at all our space now. Blocking everything will not work in the long term. We must have a strategy, a plan that has force in local and state forums. This survey is important.
Increased population will put pressure on the environment
Development replacing the natural environment. Climate change altering the environment.
See previous answers. Plus, the fire risk suggests that residential development should be discouraged in the GW. It will be challeng to limit tourism developments which are too big and which destroy the very thing tourists come to enjoy.
People say they want to live in the area because of the environment but in order to do this they will destroy what they found so attractive ie. the environment. There is a great deal of pressure to cut up land, bulldoze trees etc and build roads and houses. Developers appear to be ruthless with one sole focus: making money without any constraints. VCAT doesn't appear to be about protecting the Green Wedge.
more bushfires
As more people decide to move to this beautiful rural environment more pressure will be placed on council to subdivide into smaller lots as has happened in other GreenWedge areas. This would result in the destruction of the diversity of plants, trees and wildlife that we currently enjoy.
Climate change and bush removal
Melbourne's population growth, and the ongoing loss of space and resources for non-human species. The Council support for such growth is a serious threat to the environmental values of the NGW.
Protecting this magic place from developers and people who want to over-populate and destroy the environmental values.
development pressures, flora and fauna that are under stress and could be pushed over the edge by fire or overdevelopment
Linked into social values as well. More people, more development, more pressure to clear vegetation, provide vegetation management to managfe fire risk at expense of biodiversity

values, more access to sensitive areas that require protection (causing more damage). Increased risk of domestic animals preying on rare/threatened fauna. Pressure by new trails/mountain biking in sensitive areas. Lack of appropriate fire to enhance biodiversity, in favour of fuel reduction burning, that damages biodiversity, and may not provide the fire risk management that is desired.
There is an ever present pressure to develop that needs to be strictly controlled if the magic of the Nillumbik Green Wedge is to be enjoyed by future generations.
Constant degradation from littering, lack of respect for other species living in this area.
Council do not make laws based on common sense. It is only a matter of WHEN my house will burn down, not if
Pressure due to increasing population. The pros & cons of bushfire mitigation versus GW ideas.
Detrimental affects to natural areas due to population pressure.
With the growth of the population there is an increasing mentality in the shire that development and farming can somehow be allowed to grow at the expense of the natural environment. Over the 30 years I have lived here I have seen successive waves of environmental degradation that needs to be reversed. Both the Council and the community seem to be polarized on this matter. The biggest challenge I see is this polarization and the naivety that somehow a middle ground can be achieved.
Listening to outdated methods that have lead to degradation of waterways by broad acre spraying and fertiliser run off. Then clearing paddocks for monoculture orchards/ wineries and keeping hard hoofed animals. (How can they say they are managing the green wedge? They are destroying it!
Nillumbik will loose the label of 'Nillumbik's Green Wedge' due to rate payer/land owners denuding and devaluing the Greenery of the Wedge.
Increased population, climate change (drought, bushfire, floods and storms).
Less green spaces due to development is an issue
Due to over development if we are not careful
Human population growth will be to the detriment of the natural landscape and species and compromise the very idea of a Green Wedge.
Wait until we have a fire that is out of control that spreads across manninhham and maroondah. They wont feel so great about bordering the lungs of Melbourne then.
Obviously bushfire is always a huge threat
Weeds and feral pests will get worse. The Green wedge itself seems to be under threat from insistent developers who constantly and persistently press for change.
There seems to be limited understanding of just how precious our biodiversity is in the shire with the continued push for development of housing and clearing of lands.
There will always be tension between maintaining environmental values and managing bushfire risk. It is important to carefully manage this issue in a scientific way and carefully planned way.
The push for growth is imminent giving it is such a viable place to live. So the balance of old and new, open land and development needs a collaboration of perspective. Balance is the key to all environments and lives.
Increased subdivision increases value of land making very expensive for agriculture and reduces viability of farming (as acreage dedicated to farming decreases) Reduced biodiversity as urbanisation increases Increased pressure on environmental assets - parks and reserves Increased spread of weeds and pests
They call it progress, but when councils want money, trees are chopped and ugly buildings take place

I believe that the challenges will be to try and maintain the Green Wedge from being developed. I don't want this to occur and want the Green Wedge to be maintained.
Preserving our unique Australian Flora and Fauna for future generations.
Any changes to the Green Wedge will seriously threaten biodiversity
Ongoing loss of Environmental Values with increased population pressures
Concerns that our wildlife will be pushed out and have nowhere to live
Increasing bushfire risk due t climate change Big increases in through traffic. a loss of bio-diversity doe to feral grazing
Bushfire is a big risk if we are to return to bushland. We need a balance of pasture and trees, this also makes the landscape interesting to look at.
Trying to mow around the road barriers to reduce the fire risk
Protecting the environment whilst balancing the needs of the residents and the issues resulting from climate change.
Having people elected who care about the nature of the area, and how deforestation and removing of flora impacts local tourism and impacts small business.
Ban all single use plastic. Progressively stricter vehicle emissions standards
Climate change is a great threat. Water shortage will also be an issue.
Environmental challenges will continue and increase as climate change progresses. Challenges such as weed invasion, feral animals such as deer, rabbits and goats. Increases in numbers of kangaroos which are in plague proportions now. Los of plant species on roadsies and in bushland. Loss of orchids which bring a lot of tourists. Keeping illegal clearing under control is a major threat now and will only get greater.
As above.
conflict between landowners and environmentalists.
As above, inadequate application of planning provisions and on going pressures from conflicted land-use pressure threaten and challenge the Green Wedge integrity.
Allowing no further reduction or breaks in wild life corridors, but attempting to increase more biodiversity and treed areas
Biodiversity bushfire landscape
>Assist management for improvement and biodiversity > control of pressure from tourism etc. so special quarters are preserved.
Lack of bio diversity and a decrease in wildlife. Too much cleared land as a knee-jerk reaction to bushfire management.
> Loss of landscape value > Loss of wildlife habitate & wildlife corridor > Increased pressure to subdivide rural land into urban residential land > "Pockets" of habitat which become unsustainable when isolated > Increased population = increased risk of fire
All Green Wedge including Nillumbiks need protection and innovative thinking to combat climate change effects and loss of biodiversity not just for me but for all Melbournians and others who need to use these areas of calm, green, open space More money needs to be allocated to look after these areas from a State Gov level which in turn agencies such as Parks Vic and others plus NSC use to care for what we have and expand areas in some cases. This will I also need bushfire & pure ecology measures implemented
Subdivisions, particularly any subdivisions of acreages, steadily eroding the beauty of the environment. Inappropriate development, such as, large houses on small blocks with no pathways and tiny parks eg. the estate off Old Diamond Creek Rd.
I have noticed more land being made for houses and I hope that it stops.
Maintaining the beautiful biodiversity! Halting any large development which will threaten & reduce the value of the green wedge.

destroying the land for housing development.
loss of trees
I think that as the years continue Nillumbik will face climate change as well as big buildings.
Bush fires.
I think that someone might come along and want to cut down more trees for housing
The trees getting cut down
it won't be green in a couple of years from pollution and the river is already dirty.
There might be a bushfire on a really hot and windy day.
our population is expanding by 100,000 people in Melbourne so I think over population and housing.
The growing number of units and housing getting put in may affect the amount of greenery and free, untouched land.
There will be a lot more bush fires when it gets hot. And we won't have a lot of trees as the time goes on.
The land might get destroyed by people, climate change and fires in the near future.
A bush fire might happen and it was close to happening with adventure play ground so with the amount of bushes and trees.
too many people and a lot of littering
I think the green wedge will face challenges because of our growing population and the new east link freeway.
I believe that sooner or later in the future the plant life may sooner or later wither away
I think that the nature that surrounds the area will be attacked in the future and that some forest land will be cut down.
Pollution, waste
Because there are more people coming to the green wedge and we have to make space for them and a lot of them will have cars so that means there will be more pollution.
There might be bush fires because the weather is getting hotter.
If there is a fire it would spread easily and most of the green wedge could be burned. ☹
I think that we will face pollution and environmental challenges.
more people more rubbish more pollution more houses
more people, knocking down one house then there building more houses,
As the heat rises over the years, so will the risk of a bushfire. There have also been some changes in the area that have some impact, but it depends on where the changes are.
I think everyone will stop caring and everyone's rubbish will end up on the ground. doing this is wrong and could ruin a town.
I think that in the future when the community starts to grow there will have to destroy more trees a natural habitats, to make units and houses
There will be more developers wanting to develop in the area and the council will have to agree to them because of the money they get from it.
I think the demand for houses will start to affect the environment in the area.
In the future we will have many more people populating the area, so we will get less and less room for people. People will destroy the green wedges and ruin the environment for houses. So we need to start thinking about how to fix this, or there won't be any more room for the green wedges.
I think soon climate change and over development could further affect our green wedge. I think we need to be wary that we might turn into every other boring suburban area that doesn't have any trees.
Global warming, pollution and government services(house building, apartment building etc).

Encroachment from development threatens to eat away at the Green Wedge until it will no longer be able to function as it was originally planned.
Climate change will bring more bushfires & it would be good to work with Indigenous people to use their methods of burning than those presently used that cause so much destruction. More sub-division means less biodiversity & diminishing scenic vistas. These are the draw card for tourists.
Loss of biodiversity / flora & fauna / ecosystems. Fragmentation. Over development, sub-division over reaction to bushfire challenge. Australian bush is a fire ecology. Individual responsibility. Education! Royal commission recommendations.
> Keeping our efforts on property to do work of biodiversity. > Protecting values of protecting environment encouraging each other to preventing attacks on the environment key education, encourage.
Dogs accessing Warrandyte State Park; other feral animals such as cats and deer damaging wildlife and the environment;
Pressure to develop, relaxing of protections.
There will be more pressure to provide land for housing. More people visiting the area and potentially damaging flora and fauna.
The desire to sell it off for monetary gain
Climate change, changes to veg clearing laws and lack of investment in preordering these values.
Government are constantly whittling away at the environmental values of the Green wedge which allows those who wish to make a case for development.
dealing with the impact of climate change
I strongly believe that the greed and shortsightedness of many individuals as well as those in council will result in unsustainable development which will result in the environmental integrity of the Nillumbik Green Wedge being lost forever. If the people who will ultimately make these decisions took the time to understand why it is important to protect our native environment, I believe the right decisions will be made.
Supporting its continuation with the growth and development pressures that will exist across Melbourne.
Concern this irreplaceable asset and life support system will be lost as has happened elsewhere in Melbourne.
The Nillumbik Green Wedge was declared at a time that the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) was still in existence. Responsibility for maintenance of facilities within the Green Wedge lay with the MMBW. When the MMBW was abolished this responsibility was passed on to the respective municipalities. However, there was no financial compensation for their acceptance of this responsibility. A considerable portion of the Nillumbik Green Wedge is under the control of Parks Victoria. Over recent years, both Labor and Coalition governments have carved large slices out of Parks Victoria's budget with result that Parks Victoria no longer has sufficient funds to do the work needed for basic maintenance work. In recent times there has been a modest improvement in the situation, but most of the additional funds are being spent on developments in iconic parks such as the Grampians. Maintenance of walking tracks in parks managed by Parks Victoria in Nillumbik is now greatly dependent on the contributions of volunteers. Yet there aren't sufficient staff to ensure that the volunteers are being used effectively.
More weeds, less native fauna and large gum trees.
There needs to be an awareness campaign regarding the indigenous environment that isn't going to get peoples backs up. Too much has already been lost in the name of bush fire prevention. Activities in the reserves have been detrimental to the environment, which is already under pressure. Orchids are protected and shouldn't be sacrificed for art activities or

cultural tourism activities. I think most people are reasonable when they are informed but the awareness campaigns have been more about power politics rather than helping people under stand what is out there.
as our population grows so does the impact on our local environment. Concerns about bushfires and other risks lead people to clear land and remove biodiversity, increasing weed invasion
There is so much new development on large land sites. There is too much concrete which does not hold rainwater and does not create areas for birds, trees, wildlife.
Persistent whittling away of the remnant green wedge by development. Feral animals including deer, pigs, foxes and cats impacting upon fauna such a phascogales, sugar gliders, dunnarts and a host of birds. Weed invasion threatens native vegetation. Climate change is altering species movement and flowering times.
Population pressures beit harm to the environment from the current population or increased pressure for developement to cater for population growth . Maintaining let alone strengthening protections is becoming increasingly difficult due to laxk of understanding of the Green Wedges' true value .
Future challenges depend upon what decisions are made today! Biodiversity is crucial for the healthy functioning of the natural environment, and is especially so with climate change looming. Stop logging the forest which is the habitat for endangered species, and our future sanity, a haven of peace and wellness.
Too much new housing, loss of environment due to development. Climate change and increased bushfire risk.
litter pollution
More tree felling in the area, because of the multi-dwelling developments, which results in less green areas.
Lack of Water and Increase in Fire Risks.
I think it will struggle to maintain it's biodiversity and landscape under increasing pressure from urban sprawl growth...
destroying of bush
We must protect "The Green Wedge Shire" & "The Lungs of Melbourne", as this is why most of us love living here! We need to pride ourselves on being a conservation shire with protection of the Green Wedge with biodiversity as our primary strategic focus. We need to keep improving on what we have got & remember "once it's gone, it's gone forever"! The habitat of our Wildlife, biodiversity, the Green Wedge and our beautiful environment and landscapes MUST all be protected. Council MUST stop allowing over-sized developments, sub-divisions for further housing that impact on all this magnificent beauty of our Shire.
Understorey degradation. Unmanaged eucalypt regeneration. Massive wildfires. Cats and dogs. Spur drains being put in the wrong positions by Council when grading dirt roads, causing massive erosion and floristic changes. Weeds. Horses.
Restricting over development to maintain the Green Wedge Image.
Balancing competing interests and the use of natural resources will create potential risks to the native flora and fauna that help define the area. Preserving the inherent beauty of the area while accommodating population growth and increased services for that population will be a challenge.
pressure from people wanting to use this space. pressure from development. traffic congestion
Increased risk of severe bushfires due to higher average summer temperatures and drier conditions.
Over the years I have volunteered and worked with friends groups to help with the environment. On my own property I have planted hundreds of natives and have removed "weeds" wherever I find them. I presently look after land belonging to Melbourne Water

because I believe we are all responsible.
We are heading in a better direction and hope that landcare/green will be kept under control and rational representation for issues will prosper
I think there will be continued pressure placed on the green areas of the shire and I don't trust the incumbent councillors to protect it.
A reduction in the protection of the Green Wedge. Clearing of vegetation.
Climate change, pest species, pressure from development
Population increases in Melbourne put pressure to move UGB into the Green Wedge areas. Self-interested residents will continue to press for reduced environmental protection
The environment is under threat from worldwide factors such as climate change but also from the current council and its desire to make the shire profitable
Nillumbik will face Huge Fire prone areas were once agricultural land has not been managed will turn to Red Tree forests. the other skirts of Nillumbik Smiths Gully, Watsons Creek, Kangaroo Ground, Bend of Islands, Panton Hill, Cottles Bridge, Hurstbridge is the last resort to fight fire before it reaches treed suburbia Research, Warrandyte and Eltham. There has to be a smart balance between cleared agricultural land and good quality remnant revegetated indigenous bushland.
The preservation of the natural environment with the pressure to tame it and clear it of its diversity.
See my previous answer. I have lived here for 65 years. Successive Councils have given priority to developers and businesses, such that the population has exceeded the safe maximum. It is time to start making decisions which are in the interests of the people who live here, and not those who want to subdivide and sell. This carries the additional benefit of preserving the "lungs" of Melbourne.
Preserving the green wedge in the face of an obsession with development
More and more city dwellers moving in, not caring about weeds ie blackberries and CNG. They run rampant and the entire community needs education on how/.why th4se things are a threat. In the case of blackberries I have never understood why council can't enforce property owners to do something when it is a prohibited weed.
Need for more fruit & vegetable gardens & provision for animals. Infastructure.
Greater risk of bushfire and floods. Much more traffic on the roads as the area is built up and there is limited public transport put in place. Loss of biodiversity due to climate change - temperatures rising. Wildlife numbers dropping due to loss of habitat.
As for all , the changing climate will affect the open spaces and resources must be available to manage that
The extraordinary biodiversity we have in the Green Wedge will disappear if we don't do more to protect it now. We need more enforcement against people who do the wrong thing to dissuade others and a campaign to improve things like littering, pollution (chemical and light) and climate change that are having a negative effect on wildlife and flora.
Nillumbik should do everything in its power to keep the area a green-wedge. With other words, it should carefully manage new developments in the area so this region doesn't turn simply yet another city suburb. Even now, with the developments over the last couple of years, our town feels a lot more busy than it used to with traffic during peak periods becoming crazy. At times, it has taken me close to an hour to just get from research to the mini-railway during peak hours.
Overdevelopment from greedy and misplaced builders and members of council
I think there will be a push for much more medium density living, and subsequent development of the green wedge areas for housing.
With the practice of leaving fallen trees etc as habitat within the town parks the fuel for fires

increases. There's also many feral animals that need to be controlled before we loose the natives.
Climate change will impact the Green Wedge in ways that will be accentuated with trends to a higher population. It is irresponsible to encourage rural population growth with limited public infrastructure for emergency services and evacuation transport
subdivision is a great concern to me - wombats being killed by increased traffic along with other native animals, damage done by dust to vegetation. The development of roadside barriers strikes me as counterproductive, trapping animals on the road, slicing motorbike riders in accidents, encouraging speed and taking away from the beauty of the drive. I think Nillumbik needs to encourage people to plant non native trees etc to encourage increased rainfall and assist in fire management. They need to work with landowners and be careful not to raise financial hurdles to the landowners who are trying to improve the general area.
There is already a threat to the tree canopy, we recently found a baby possum that had been flung from it's nest, trees being cut down to make way for 'development' of building sites. Where do the birds/animals/insects/reptiles go when their habitat is taken away?
Pressure to subdivide by developers. Bushfire danger.
See above: future Bushfire threat exacerbated by ill-considered council regulations.
Stop the over development. Look at Eltham. it's lost it's point of difference and charm. Stop the multi story dwellings that don't fit the cultural feel of the area.
Increasing loss of tree canopy and weed infestation, loss of biodiversity, loss of native wildlife due to habitat loss and road kill and feral animal. In creasing degradation due t wild deer influx into the area. More pressure on part of the Yarra that are popular swim holed and lack of proactive management of these sights- eg Laughing Waters and Bouchiers Lane
Too much development which will destroy the Green Wedge and it's purpose. Nillumbik is very close to the CBD and yet relatively empty. Developers will be eyeing it off for Cranbourne like development.
Weed proliferation - the bridle creeper is flourishing Fire danger and how to deal with it Maintaining a sensible balance between extreme greenies and others
The preservation and appreciation of the value of what we have in our Green Wedges must be paramount. Once gone they will not come again. It's not just our human wellbeing that is protected by our green spaces but the flora and fauna that we share the area with. We have a duty to the following generations to defend these spaces. The challenge for our governing bodies is to manage/control inappropriate development proposals and question the premise that continuous growth is a good thing. Our resources are not infinite and we need a robust conversation about limiting growth and how to have sustainable populations.
Worried that it will not be protected as it has been in the past.
Threats to bushland. There needs to be officiant bushland to maintain viable ecosystems.
Trying to get a balance between providing for the community and maintaining a natural environment.
Bushfires are a constant. But also so are unthinking and opportunistic residential and business development and well-meaning but misguided development associated with tourism.
The deer are a problem, sadly there needs to be culling before they do too much damage to native flora.
Loss of indigenous vegetation.
The prime value of the Green Wedge is its unique status as a 'Green Wedge'. It has been set aside to protect nature, its habitats and biodiversity. This would be threatened if there is a weakening of the Green Wedge Management Plan.
Feral animals, weed invasions, poor quality ill advised housing and infrastructure

developments
Sustained pressure from some parties will threaten planning regs
I worry that the Green Wedge is at threat from over development. I would hate to see trees being cut down and the local nature being destroyed so greedy developers can make money.
People are attracted to Nillumbik primarily by its natural values. The protection and enhancement of these values should be paramount
CO2 is the lifeline of all plant life. Bush fires are an ongoing threat to life and property in Nillumbik and can easily devastate an area as we saw on Black Saturday. Bush fires must be a major consideration throughout this shire with every planning decision, social, economic, environmental and regulatory. We humans are part of Nillumbik's environment. Human life in all these areas must take priority.
Where there are gum trees and long grass in open spaces there will always be a danger for surrounding blocks and many are not equipped to manage such land. We are over run with kangaroos therefore impacting planting and use of our land.
Poor regulatory policies. A worsening climate with more hotter and longer hot spells are to come and will get worse meaning more development in this area will put more lives at risk. It will get much much worse in the years ahead so easing restrictions on development will put more lives at risk.
I think that the area will begin to be overdeveloped and lose the attributes and reasons that people move to the area for in the first place. The environment is what makes the area so special and pressures on the enviroment and wildlife from development and over commercialisation will harm it
Trees are dying, pest not controlled. Tree removal in DCrrek to housing is a disgrace. Can't remove a tree on 40 arces but put up a housing estate developers can do what they like.
We need to look after our heritage of beautiful indigenous vegetation
I think the Green Wedge faces constant threat from parts of council, community, political threat. Threat to keeping the Green Wedge intact and threat to giving it the importance it deserves.
Nillumbik's environment faces future challenges from climate change and population pressures. Quoting the State Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, "Not enough has been done to protect Victoria's biodiversity which is in significant decline." The DELWP plan, Biodiversity -2037, recently issued, states that, "Even today,decision makers in government, business and land management too often fail to fully consider the impacts of their actions on biodiversity - and are not routinely required to do so." Given our unique privilege of managing a GW with the highest biodiversity on Melbourne's footstep, the current Council suggestion of reduced protection is alarming.
Too much development skewing the delicate balance between semi rural residential living and a biologically diverse natural environment.
Bushfires - see previous comments
I think we shouldn't forget about the devastation of black Saturday. I don't think we should clear all the things that make our green wedge what it is, but I don't think we should let the under brush and certain flammable vegetation take over either.
Education on all aspects of our environment is essential, particularly around bush fire. We live in a fire prone area, having said that there are not wildfires every year or even every other year. Wildfire is the result of many complex and interacting conditions that with present knowledge can be forecast. Climate change will inevitably exacerbate bush fire activity. Black Saturday was horrendous, and the death toll appalling, however those extreme conditions also caused twice as many heat related deaths as the fire, a statistic not commonly known. The fear of fire is used as justification for the knee jerk reaction of wholesale removal of flammable material. Suitable safe guards and conditions have been put in place since 2009 through the Bush Fire Royal Commission. It is the weather

conditions and events leading up to a critical forecast fire day that must be understood. We are indeed fortunate to have many local volunteers within the CFA that stand ready at all times to defend our lives, homes and environs. Join your local CFA or at the very least attend their fire briefings, They will provide positive actions you can take to protect both your life and lifestyle and to your property.
Fire will always be a challenge in the green wedge
There is clear evidence that our indigenous bush environment is under increased and continued threat by developers, and by land owners who would like to remove trees and clear land to build on or partake/expand activities that damage the soil, and degrade biodiversity. The biodiversity that we have is a delicate asset that needs better protection.
Climate change and bushfires are of course challenges, but the biggest challenges would be any changes to current protections and land use regulations
I agree that there needs to be a strong environmental focus, but make it easy and incentivize people to do the right thing.
If we cannot maintain our property with ever more regulations, then we will experience another major bushfire. There are still roads going to property's with nature strips that are covered in dead trees, and constantly fallen wood on the road. Why are the roads in this condition when there are large property surrounding the roads containing trees etc for wildlife.
If you don't address the roadside rubbish and weed situation we will be known as the litter wedge
I worry that the council is thinking about short term gains instead of standing strong and looking after what we have. The challenge for the Green Wedge is to hold onto its wedge.
Pests and weeds
Bushfire huge concern .Need to keep our open grazing land for defendable spaces. That we have the rights to feel safe in the area we live .
I believe the fact the council may continue to be not representative of the wider community and generally represent developers and people that want to do what ever they like on their property I also believe because of the above point, that owners will be allowed to be more destructive on their own land (manages, removal of trees, large dams, extravagant garages) By removing native vegetation, there are broader effects on wildlife beyond a property boundary. Examples include erosion, impacts on pollinators such as bees and birds. The list is endless. Just because you have bought a property, should not ensure that owners can impact on their neighbours and community.
The words 'Climate change' do come to mind!
I believe the fact the council may continue to be not representative of the wider community and generally represent developers and people that want to do what ever they like on their property I also believe because of the above point, that owners will be allowed to be more destructive on their own land (manages, removal of trees, large dams, extravagant garages) By removing native vegetation, there are broader effects on wildlife beyond a property boundary. Examples include erosion, impacts on pollinators such as bees and birds. The list is endless. Just because you have bought a property, should not ensure that owners can impact on their neighbours and community.
Roadside - Would like to see roadside clearing of trees and dense vegetation up to 4 mts each side of road to provide better visibility, lessen risk of cars impacting roadside trees, and provide an increased margin of safety in the event of bush fire. Planting - A replanting program of targeted suitable, indigenous where possible, trees and plants behind the areas cleared and could involve volunteer groups, school children and other community groups as a means of education as well as council contractors on both public and private land (subject to agreement)

Biodiversity of flora and fauna is under threat from shrinking high quality vegetation and reduction in the connections of such spaces. Climate Change will make this worse. Weed infestations and the encroaching wild deer are adding to this problem.
The loss of biodiversity is my number one concern in the Green Wedge. Tree clearing, especially if old trees with hollows, destruction of the understorey and the clearance of road verges is impacting all kinds of birds insects, invertebrates and reptiles and this will get worse if too much development occurs. Domestic animals continue to harass the wildlife. Bushfires will increase with climate change and with too much development. As the Royal Commission into the Victorian Bushfires found the most effective option is to limit development in fire prone areas so as not to put more people in harm's way. I know as a witness the idea of clearing the bush does not make people safer in an extreme weather conflagration. Grass fires are equally ferocious.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Managing for bushfire with the impacts of climate change * Protecting and preserving grazing land as an inherently valuable environmental asset, equal to the vegetated areas of the shire - we need to protect grazing land for keeping grazing animals where they need to be - on grass!
challenges through increased development in green wedge and adjacent areas with continued loss of biodiversity
If existing protection of the Green Wedge is diminished then I consider there will be significant environmental challenges such as loss of habitat for wildlife, loss of vegetation leading to a decrease in air quality. The very Green Wedge nature of the Green Wedge will be lost.
We'll be more at risk of bush fires if we're not provided the opportunity to remove dead gum trees, and some of the trees that grow in abundance (in weed proportion) but are not classified as weeds so we're not supposed to remove them.
I think unless the council is proactive the developers will turn our beautiful shire into a regular suburb. Any development should be guided by the fact that we are a conservation shire with protection of the Green Wedge and biodiversity as our primary strategic focus. This involves a commitment to stopping the urban sprawl, the urbanisation, population growth and traffic congestion which will ultimately lead to the degradation and fragmentation of our natural environment,
The Challenges have been and will always be the swing from the left to the right when the majority live in the middle of the bell curve. We need bush, we need pasture, we need thriving communities and we need to conserve all of these and this is not done by allowing suburbia to sneak into the Green Wedge or locking it up so it can be used.
Catastrophic fires
Pressure from certain groups to develop the green wedge without due concern for it.
Destruction of the natural environment and driving out of native wildlife.
Trying to preserve the green wedge is challenged by increased infrastructure. Where land has been subdivided indigenous animals lose habitat and are killed on roads.
The OVER development.... This will not be able to be undone!
We will become just another outer suburb
Less trees means it's not so much a green wedge anymore, it's an outer suburb. Tourists don't go to Box Hill for the fresh air, and they won't keep visiting Nillumbik if it's another growth corridor like Whittlesea.
I am concerned about the appetite of developers building in the Green Wedge, both industrial and residential, and the attendant impact on the Green Wedge.
Nillumbik seriously risks losing the thing that attracted ratepayers to the area - greenery!
The push by a number of vested interests including some wealthy landowners to open up the green wedge to housing and other developments will change forever the current green wedge benefits.

lack of realistic approach to managing the fire danger in the green wedge will enhance the already extreme fire danger of living in the zone
Keeping it.
Always worried about bushfires. Plus, wildlife is prolific in urban areas (wallabies, possums etc) because the destruction of their habitat via ugly housing estates has forced them to urban streets. Not natural to see a wallaby on your neighbour's lawn!
Protecting this Green Wedge and the flora and fauna from development and everything it brings with it, (cars, people, cats, dogs, pets, cattle, machines, noise, etc) and from people in the area chipping away at the vegetation to slowly but surely turn it into just another suburb.
Too many buildings reduces wildlife diversity and destroys the character of Nillumbik.
'- Loss of habitat for flora and fauna. - Clearing of land. - Pressures to subdivide. - Strongly need to support 20 acre lots.
Climate change resulting in greater bush fire risk
Need to be realistic for property owners to maintain fire safe properties
All of the above to remain "the Green Wedge"
A code red bushfire day looms as a significant concern for all. How well prepared are we? How will local infrastructure cope?
Losing our amenity and open spaces for development. Too much dense development where is should not be so dense.
The continuing pressure on the Green Wedge by overdevelopment and developing what many would like to happen in having a 'thin edge of the green wedge'. A line in the sand approach keeps our environment safer.
Reduction in indigenous landscape a big loss
The removal of trees is ongoing & seems to be overtaking the planting of trees. This means nillumbik (Eltham) could become like any other outer suburb thus losing its attraction & reputation as a green, leafy suburb.
See previous comments: Threat of spread of weeds and feral animals threatening native vegetation and wildlife. Inappropriate development threatens landscape values. Sensitive fire management techniques need to be considered to encourage further diversity rather than random 'burns'
Increased housing and commercial business density.
CHALLENGES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE TO STOP THE DESTRUCTION OF NATIVE HABITAT
Due to population growth and people wanting to do what they want to do on their own properties - the environment is losing out. Native animals are being compromised, for introduced animals such as cattle and horses. Native plants are disappearing - this all disturbs the balance of life. Without our nature, we will end up a community with increased health problems (mental and physical).
I think that the impact of climate change will prove the greatest challenge in managing Nillumbik's green wedge.
Loss of native vegetation through the potential for the Shire without strong planning controls to allow excessive built and scale of built form development in the green wedge.
I think the Shire will face great pressure to develop land reserved for farmland, parkland and general recreation; use, This should be fought to maintain the green open spaces that
Danger to the environment from developers wanting to build many houses on small blocks of land. Loss of trees. More pollution.
Problems caused by the ever-increasing kangaroo population: road accidents, eating our pastures, destroying trees we plant and damaging our fences.
An increase in population because people want to live in a more environmentally friendly space VS the need to provide infrastructure for an expanding population without destroying

the environment that people live here for
Constant pressure from some land-owners who wish to be free of their responsibilities to maintain and enhance the GW and who want others to pay for any such efforts they make. Constant pressure from some land-owners who pressure to extend the UGB so as to subdivide existing land. The constant pressure for inappropriate development. The constant need for vigilance and the time it requires to defend the protection and enhancement of the GW, especially of the biodiversity and ecosystems. Public transport will be an increasing challenge, even although the demand is - and will continue to be - insufficient to make public transport across the rural areas economically viable. Increasing challenges of environmental weeds as land is cleared on the pretext of fire protection
With development will come a loss of trees, nature and biodiversity. Climate change is making the environment drier and more prone to bushfire risk.
Being trashed!!! The value of the GW is not being taken seriously by some powerful groups. The vision of the GW goes back to Latrobe and Hoddle and was under treat with the boundaries continually extending from inception. Population increase and money to be made by developers with continue to erode bio-diversity, habitat and the lungs of Melbourne.
Depending on outcome of this review and state VPPs...loss of biodiversity, water quality, loss of landscape views and development of sameness of landscape e.g. cleared paddocks and vineyards, white fences around horse paddocks. Our Green Wedge will be at threat of degradation if development, urban sprawl, vegetation clearing, changes of land use are all allowed. We are a conservation shire with protection of the Green Wedge and biodiversity as out primary strategic focus. We need to improve on our record, not weaken it.
I think the environment will always be pressure. There will always need to be people who are willing to advocate on behalf of the natural environment, this is one particular moment in an ongoing challenge. There will always be people wanting to exploit the area for economic gain, not only within Nillumbik but across all the GW. If we care about the quality of life for all Melbournians the GWs are important. It is hard to convey how important the GW are for all of us, and what a great vision it was, and how fragile it is.
Bush fire risks and management of green wedge to control dangerous situations.
not enough green waste collection and cutting of roadside
'- Loss of biodiversity - Increased fire danger - Feral animals
over development impacting on the natural environment, impacting wildlife.
There will always be pressure to subdivide and for inappropriate development, especially with the Melbourne Water land in Christmas Hills being sold off.
Pressure of development vs sustenance of a diverse and ancient environment: Important habitats of rare fauna and flora. Remnant bushland. Need to keep native trees to sequester carbon, stabilise land against erosion, and provide shelter for stock. Climate change
The challenge is presented by landholders and regulators (including coucillors) who seek to compromise and modify the Green Wedge status
over development
The biggest threat is of course, inappropriate development, land clearing, large population increases and broad scale suburban development .
treescapes, subdivision of large parcels of land for commercial development
With population increasing at a rapid rate there will possibly be the need for more residential development. This is currently occurring through the Whittlesea corridor but once that is complete then there might be a desire to cut into the green wedge of Nillumbik.
ongoing pressure by people to further develop the land. Push for in appropriate uses.
Making it back to green as you require from us
Greedy landowners wanting to capitalize on their property investments and subdivide in green wedge protected areas.
Strong planning laws need to be in place to prevent unnecessary vegetation clearing and to

stop owners flouting the existing rules.
There is clearly a constant battle to develop land for a variety of reasons, this brings with it so many issues which impinge on the Green Wedge. An example is using pesticides which flow into the waterways and will kill other native flora and fauna than what it was intended for...
With the advance of climate change, the risk of bushfires will increase and there could be repeats of the 2009 Black Saturday tragedy. Council must therefore place increased emphasis on the bushfire risk by accepting the advice of CFA experts and the many rural residents who have lived here for lengthy periods and who understand the dynamics of the natural environment. Council officers come and go, and, while they may recognise a hundred different species of eucalypt by looking at their leaves and flowers from their book-learning, they have no concept of the interplay of changing physical and meteorological factors that affect the dynamics of the natural bush.
Loss of flora and fauna. Weed invasion. Climate change
Pressure to increase density and too many facilities for tourism
Bushfire risk, something needs to be done to reduce the risk, or one day, the whole area may be wiped out.
With the green environmentalist still working in planning the private portion of the green wedge will become a weed infested sespool. I am not allowed to put a driveway on my land. How can I ever maintain it if I have no access onto the land
Increased rubbish and the risk of bushfires from the number of cars being stolen and torched. A lot of the charm is being lost with the widening of Yan Yean Road and I am really concerned at how much wildlife is being killed on the roads. Too many trees are being cut down for road widening. Save the Doreen Red Gums
When the Melbourne Green Wedge first came in 50 years they were to be the "lungs of Melbourne" and preserved for bushland or real farming if cleared. However, many there were many separate titles already in existence and even though it was 50 years ago, pecuniary interest drives individuals to exploit use of the titles and undermine the Green Wedge principle for more and more development. This is still true in Wattle Glen where a new owner buys vacant land with lots of tree canopy, and then bulldozes the indigenous undergrowth and many indigenous trees whilst at the same time writing submissions to state government for rezoning for residential development and at the same time trying to exploit the undersized small lots for further development. The community cares, but we need a Council who will also care to protect the Green Wedge and its biodiversity in Wattle Glen.
Council will reduce the lot sizes and overbuild losing the small community feel and overdevelop
While the economic viability of landowners adjacent to the Mernda/Doreen growth corridor will be at increasingly marginal as the capital value of their properties increases (along with rates) they will have little volition and limited economic capacity to redress the environmental degradation so evident among properties in the Arthurs Crk area. Much of this land is currently degraded and in need of urgent regeneration. The passage of time will only exacerbate these problems and see the increasing influx of weeds, escalation of erosion and degradation of the soil in the green belt. This will further erode the environmental value of the green wedge and its amenity.
Bush fires are a concern each season. With the two incidents in the past 5 years we were told by the CFA that we were lucky that on both occasions the conditions were such (no wind) and the fire was restricted to the top boundary of ours and two of the small (2 acre) properties. The fire emanated from a burn-off from one of the small properties along our boundary. Although we were home at the time, we were not aware of the fire until we smelt the smoke and heard the fire brigade sirens as the fire was out of sight of our house being

over the hillside. Having numerous small residential blocks on the boundary of a 20 acre block present challenges that a smaller blocks adjacent to 4-5 acre blocks as a transition would not have.
Bushfire management. Retention of native fauna and flora resulting from climate change.
Further increases in traffic, noise and too much infrastructure development. Population increases.
Keeping a balance between safety against fires and keeping our green wedge
Unfortunately the Green Wedge has lost most of its large Eucalyptus to early mining and wood harvesting activity. Combined with the change in fire management of the land (reduced/no patchwork burning) much of the land now supports hundreds of trees per hectare, rather than the 10-40 trees per hectare as recorded by early settlers. Green Wedge when it burns, burns hot due to the current high fuel loads that exists. The environmental impact and human cost of those hot burns is high. A truly visionary plan would allow/plan for a tree density per hectare to return to pre-European numbers. Full canopy cover is still provided by the larger trees, and overall fuel loads and bushfire intensity are reduced. Much of the current land management regulation appears to focus on actions that tend to increase fuel load, hence we will still have unstoppable high intensity bushfires in the Greenwedge.
See previous answers Q2
Nillumbik has been "The Lungs of Melbourne" Let us keep that title and enhance our environment. Stop any urban sprawl, multi unit developments that add traffic congestion, lack of parking, blocking small streets angering residents who are unable to get their car out of the driveway. They also remove existing greenery which is not permanently replaced. All this adds to our greenhouse gas emissions.
If the Green Wedge is further developed I feel that it will lose its appeal - I have always known it to be green, peaceful and quiet. I don't want to see more units going up which clog up streets with extra cars.
Climate change is a serious threat and must be monitored. Council should continue to promote sustainable lifestyles and environmental protection. Bushfire is a natural part of the environment and protection of life and property should be concentrated on each property and asset and not undertaken across the whole landscape as that is too devastating of natural communities and is of little benefit in reducing fire risk in other than the very short term. While grazing of stock and horses on improved pasture is appropriate, grazing of bushland should be completely stopped as it is bad for the bush and for the animals concerned. As stated elsewhere there are increasing risks from many introduced species and particularly from deer in more recent times and region-wide and state-wide programs should be developed to control all these pests. Funding for such work should be ongoing and coordinated to achieve the most effective use of people and resources.
Degradation due to expanding urban stresses and inattention to current legislation and planning controls
With climate change, the area is such a high bushfire risk with a need to plan and advise residents of emergency escape routes. Very limited, narrow roads to exit area at present.
Lack of recruitment of native vegetation to replace senescing vegetation because of mowing and grazing by sheep, cattle and horses. Destruction of vegetation due to development without any corresponding replacement. Increasing fragmentation of vegetation reducing the movement of fauna and, consequently, reducing the genetic variability and long term survival of some species.
No doubt Shire will see clearing & subdivision as good way of bringing in more funds. Necessary to fund infrastructure management of new development!!!
Bushfire
The challenge is to get people here that want to be here and those that appreciate the Green Wedge and have a positive and collective view to make it grow. Too many times we

have seen people take advantage of our great community and land. We need a strong direction promoting the Green Wedge and what it stands for.
Bushfire risk will increase due to climate change. Loss of natural bushland due to population/housing pressures.
Nillumbik should be in the forefront of renewable energy use in whatever way it can.
Depends on how well it is managed. There could be more traffic on the roads. More houses if the rules are changed to allow more development which will eventually destroy the environment of the whole area.
Over development of housing and roads.. Destruction of animal habitat. Severe bush fires. Arsonists.
Climate change resulting in mor severe weather events (storms, floods, droughts, fires)
There is a pressing need to better manage the bushfire risk, including a reduction in fuel loads to reduce the risk to local residents and livestock. Not addressing this issue will also increase the risk to visitors to the area, and potentially deter them visiting.
The Green Wedge will face continual pressure from some groups to wind back environmental regulation such as overlays, which will impact upon biodiversity and farming within the Green Wedge, which is very important for a region that is so close to Melbourne. This Green Wedge is one of the last true Green Wedges around Melbourne and therefore should be protected. The increase in invasive species (both weeds and animals) such as Sambar Deer will need to be addressed, as these will continue to impact upon the Shire.
With climate change, the risk of bushfire is huge. It is a part of life here.
*Bushfire danger with people not keeping there land tidy * i like that there is no subdivision and the block sizes in Kangaroo Ground/hustrbridges/panton hill ect are 20 acres * they need to stop building ugly townhouses in eltham and research on the main road.
We need to turn things around. Stop the nibbling, death by a thousand cuts, the exploitation, this trend of ever-declining environmental values. We cannot continue Business-As-Usual. We need affirmative environmental action; and to affirm at every opportunity, Nillumbik's primary conservation role, the integrity of the Green Wedge and Green Wedge values (eg. indigenous vegetation).
Temper development. Developers can go elsewhere in Melbourne thanks. This area is not their financial opportunity.
As more people seek to live in the Green Wedge area there will be more pressure on native vegetation and environmentally significant areas. Many people seek to live here because of the environmental characteristics and are great advocates and custodians for the environment but for those who just want to have free rein on their plot there can be some significantly detrimental outcomes for the environment. Good education and sensible rules with enforcement should help achieve a good outcome for the environment we love.
The increase in housing density in Eltham concerns me the most. As multiple units are put in building lots there is little room left for trees. The treed urban environment is what attracted me to Eltham when I moved here 35 years ago. More natural shade is required on the streets in summer, not less.
The green wedges are the lungs of Melbourne. We also help biodiversity and conservation. Population growth is a tempting incentive to sell off green spaces but once it is gone it is gone forever and the environment loses.
The challenges will come if there is pressure to change the Green Wedge. Any attempt to increase tourism will inevitably lead to destruction of it. Resorts golf courses spas etc would change the entire area putting pressure to clear land build infrastructure to support the developments.
There is a big risk that too much biodiversity will be lost due to fears about bushfires and to get cheap land for unsympathetic purposes. Land clearing needs to be sensitive to the environment and landscape. Can't have Overdevelopment.

Fire clearing needs to be carefully handled. Hazards reduced without sacrificing bushland. there may be some areas not suitable as permanent residences
As above, to try and keep the protections in place. It is not about being green, it is about life on earth and regarding it with respect and understanding it. You can't teach this to someone, they would just feel this way.
Wildlife corridors need to be created, maintained and treasured. Wildlife needs to be considered when building new roads and under- or over-passes constructed to avoid accidents & wildlife carnage. Many people these days are not caring about injured birds or animals.
Too many people (and the entourage of "stuff" that accompanies them) will impact on the environment. There is already dramatically increased and noticeable amounts of roadside rubbish around. Native animals robbed of their habitat will suffer.
I am fearful of green wedge principles being diluted or attacked. This area should remain as 'lungs' for Melbourne, offering respite from city pressures for people, and sanctuary for native creatures and plants. We need strong underlying LONG-TERM principles of general public good to drive decisions, not immediate gain (which is usually for the few anyway). Tourism potential should be very carefully planned and should focus on environmental qualities, not mass tastes. Am also very fearful of climate change, for the whole planet, not just Nillumbik! Anything the shire can do to lower carbon emissions is another drop in the bucket that could help. Renewable energy, yes please; local food production and markets; energy efficiency programs too are very important, plus improvements in public transport and EV charging stations (powered by renewable energy).
As above, developers may have their way in an area that should limit environmental clearing.
Over-development and inappropriate management of the natural resources of the area. We are already facing major alterations to the natural environment through development pressures including: drastic and potentially irreversible impacts on the hydrology, the loss of native plant and animal species, the introduction of potentially weedy or feral species of plants and animals, altered burning and grazing regimes that with alter the existing vegetation driving many plants and animals to extinction.
Worsening bushfire seasons, control of pest animals. Safe shooting should remain allowed. Degradation of land. Habitat for native animals must be sensibly managed so land owners and wildlife can co-exist.
People already not caring generally what species become noxious weeds. Plus already removing whatever vegetation suits them. As well development and uncontrolled lighting will ruin this Shire
Climate change, biodiversity loss and inadequate landscape protections in the planning scheme will almost certainly continue the decline of the green wedge's values and environment. We are faced with a huge challenge to protect and reinvigorate natural systems in our green wedge and all around the planet. Nature is in serious trouble everywhere - think for a moment about the barrier reef! We need to do our bit wherever we live.
Not enough work is being done to reduce the fire loads in the shire .Planting more shrubs and Flammable native grasses on roadsides beside walking tracks and near kindergartens and around the towns has only increased the fuel load.
The wedge seems as though it is under pressure for more development. The nature of the GW seems to changing from a preserved natural environment as the size of houses, sheds, stables, driveways seem to produce ever bigger and grander structures that blot the visa's.
Removal of trees.
At the moment, there are many areas of land in the Green Wedge that have never been

<p>cleared. It is vitally important that we maintain these remnant bush areas, partly to preserve the information about the original condition of the area, but also to provide habitat for native wildlife.</p> <p>it is important to remember that the Green Wedge concept was developed to provide "lungs" for the city of Melbourne, not just for our benefit. Given the population pressures, and also the increasingly obvious challenges of climate change, this function is becoming even more important for us all.</p>
<p>Every attempt to put an inappropriate use in the Green Wedge weakens it's function as a bastion of nature. Incremental urbanization by allowing ' ancillary uses to such inappropriate uses as places of worship can mean acres of buildings and car parks that destroy the GW</p>
<p>Landscape</p>
<p>I am concerned that any 'revisiting' of Green Wedge management will soften the whole reason the Green Wedge is there (protection, environment, green space, lungs of Melbourne) or will reduce its size. This absolutely cannot be allowed to happen. One makeup of Council at one time should not rob current and future generations of something set aside for all people. Business and tourism that require infrastructure or removal of public space and protected areas do not belong in the Green Wedge. More protections for specific wildlife and floral observations must be in place.</p>
<p>Increased populations bring more pressure on a safe environment in regards to fires in the summer months.</p> <p>Increased housing developments put pressure on the natural environment for native species of the area.</p>
<p>Increased population, possible re-zoning of land from farming/natural to residential, and further clearing of any natural bushland pose threats to the environmental integrity of the region.</p>
<p>With proper preparation and control bushfires can be limited. It should not be as a reason to do away with the Green Wedge. We can lessen climate change but preserving the natural environment. Manufacturing (factories) should not be allowed for obvious reasons.</p>
<p>Bushfire prevention and the continual maintenance of infrastructure by privately owned instrumentalities.</p>
<p>The population's growing are continuing impact on the environment. Also, the traffic on the main road Eltham will be more and more worse in the morning.</p>
<p>Too many kangaroos, ducks, foxes, rabbits and deer, etc. Creating a balance is a huge challenge.</p>
<p>Maintaining biodiversity, climate change and wildfire are all likely to be huge challenges for the future.</p>
<p>Cleaning up the roadsides.</p>
<p>As an ex CFA member and veteran of the 1962 and 1969 bushfires and many others, I am very concerned about the future safety of Nillumbik residents owing to the large build up of fire fuel on our roadsides and reserves and the lack of fuel reduction practices - as in the past.</p>
<p>The challenge for Nillumbik is how to ameliorate the ever present threat to life and property from bushfire. We need to be able to manage our properties in a fire safe manner but regulations prevent us. I doubt anyone would want to moonscape their property but if a tree needs removing and its removal isn't exempted under current regulations we need to be able to just remove it without needing a permit. If more people were able to be live in the green wedge in RCZ3 on smaller lots rather than the minimum 8ha size there would be more maintained properties and reduced bushfire threat.</p>
<p>Bushfire</p>
<p>Bushfire</p>
<p>The prevention of bushfires will continue to be of a major concern & how to contain fires</p>

before reaching urban residential zones.

**Please tell us about the economic challenges you think Nillumbik's
Green Wedge will face in the future.**

Rates and services.
Not the stupid multi unit development on a single house site of the current state government push because they will not change the 1960 GW boundary.
Need to promote local businesses, remove barriers to Eltham College
Developers. Finding ways to improve public transport so people use that rather than the constant development (and cost) of roads. The need for a hospital in the Nillumbik/Whittlesea shire areas.
Rating landowners at exorbitant levels, that will largely be used to finance urban areas is unsustainable. This has the potential to force development of larger tracts where otherwise landowners would prefer to retain their properties undeveloped, which benefits the whole community. Again short sighted expedients will have long term affects. Overdevelopment of tourism, again often driven by financial necessity will result in a Green Wedge that is for the amusement and pleasure of 'visitors', who typically dont respect the environments they are in that are not their own. Agriculture will also be forced into activities by 'hobby farmers' on small lots that are neither profitable or well run, as larger enterprises will become unviable as businesses.
Eltham, while being well regarded & picturesque, is not typically a destination but more of a thoroughfare. Coupled with an obscured layout this means that business development is stifled and much more onerous than need be. The Artisan Hills project has done little to help Eltham Town while burdening all businesses with the tariff.
Properties with a large amount of land should be made to utilize them in some way agriculturally. People should be required to do an agricultural endeavor e.g. planting vegetable, fruit trees, have chickens - and if they don't want to do it themselves then rent out the available land to those in the community who would like to but cannot afford their own. This way our land would be fully utilized by all. One of the biggest threats to our Green Wedge is because of the low population density to still make rates affordable for people to live and maintain the Green Wedge.
Severe lack of tourism opportunities due to overly idyllic wedge agenda.
Change land overlays too encourage agriculture and sustainable landcare for the owners now and future generations.
Pressure on housing and business development (as per recent terrible council plans) rather than preserving the precious environment we have. Unique space left in Melbourne.
People will feel that they have to justify why they want to live here, based on financial aspects only. That will encourage people to push for more farming and land clearing. That is not why I live here.
Difficulty of small landowners to utilise the land for income
Increased house prices making the area ultra desirable with a resulting shift in the demographic make up of the population. There will fewer young people with families able to afford to live in Nillumbik. Should the Great Forest National Park be declared, then I can see an economic benefit to the area through eco-tourism, jobs and businesses created. The challenge will be to protect the GW at the same time as increasing the number of people accessing the area responsibly.
1. Businesses in the Green Wedge areas of NSC are essential. However, broad scale approval of any tourism or agriculture venture is detrimental. The Environmental Dept must be well funded and involved in these decisions.
Rates are going to be too high. We need a broader rates base by increasing the number of 1 hectare properties as buffers around the high density properties. This will give much needed rates revenue while preserving the rural character of the shire.
Too much development

Same as before the push for lower rates and the greed of business to take advantage of the beauty but to spoil it at the same time through development.
<p>The challenge are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to obtain acceptance of a social benefit, expressed in financial terms, of having the GW and the various "soft" benefits it provides; and - to ensure that the rate structure (and other imposts) enable the continued viability of vineyards, orchards etc; and - to leverage off a skilled and independently minded adult population and a high quality communications infrastructure (see above) to enable profitable, low-impact, small-scale enterprises.
You cannot halt progress forever, the population of Melbourne is growing and Nillumbik must embrace some development or it is doomed to be swallowed by its neighbours.
<p>Overpopulation will see the value of living or travelling to the shire plummet.</p> <p>I already choose regularly not to eat locally as I can't organise meeting times to see family and friends. I won't ask family who don't live in nilumbik to come to DC for my mothers birthday as the traffic is too terrible (can't make a reliable time, don't expect family to slog through traffic). Instead we will meet my extended family in Preston.</p>
I think Nillumbik has an excellent future for art, food, , workshops and small scale sustainable farming. Car parking is a problem which will become worse.
The push through people trying to make a dollar, tourism , development etc. will wan to take our precious land
Sustainable tourism,
<p>We live in one of the most biodiverse areas in Australia, possibly the world. We should be able to create opportunities for business based on that precious gift (without destroying it by farming over it). We have a huge USP - we need to build on that and exploit it. I believe there is a high level of disposal income in this area and I expect we will also be seeing an ageing population so I think we should concentrate on those issues for economic development/support - sorry don't have enough details to make a proposal.</p>
Rates too high
Not a lot of job opportunities
There appears to be a push to increase "development" in the Shire, which is clearly opposed by most residents. We came to this area for its amenity - open spaces, country atmosphere, ready access to the bush. We could have bought in Collingwood but chose not to.
Poor development practices threatening unique environments for the sake of building and growth
Purchasing of land by non-resident landholders; land price escalation,
<p>People living in the wedge are economically fixed in the area because they can't afford to relocate. It may be that this changes as the urban growth across all boundaries significantly increases the economic desirability of rural Nillumbik green wedge land - but there is no evidence that this is the case at this time</p> <p>There is limited economic opportunity in the rural Nillumbik green wedge - current rules and regs create economic barriers - and the reality is the eco tourism thing is a total dud in this area. Land that can not be used to create economic benefit in the form of business is vulnerable to becoming hobby farms, and in fact this is how most of the area is already used. Horse agistment is a viable and common use of rural Nillumbik green wedge land - and this can be expected to increase.</p> <p>Where people are forced to age in place on acreage, with shrinking financial resources, properties across the wedge will become innundated with weeds and pests - this is not in anyone's interest.</p>
It pushes up house prices because there's less supply.
Keep focus on the fact that the green wedge and the arts in the hills actually briings tourism and dollars to the shire. This brings economic prosperity. Not everyone sees the need to

continue to grow the economy, this is why the world is suffering. Why not focus on what we have, celebrate that and stop being so greedy
It's hard to comment on this one as I don't see any money being spent in North Warrandyte and can only assume that the rates I pay are being used elsewhere within the shire. Hopefully for good and not evil! I don't complain about paying rates as long as the money is not wasted!
Increased population is leading to an increased demand on services. We already pay some of the highest rates in Victoria but these rates are set to increase in order to service an ever increasing population.
Much more has to be done to promote our unique history, art, commerce and tourism. Council needs to find and nurture new revenue streams which will serve us into the information age. Council decisions need to be bipartisan and not along party lines, decisions and planning need to be made longer than 3 or 4 year election phases. Business and government require longer term planning and commitment than 3 or 4 years.
You clearly mean the PEOPLE of the Green Wedge . Other than a low rate base making it difficult to manage the lands of the GreenWedge I don't see any problems in an economic sense for the GreenWedge as a whole . Those that have 'Landbanked' and wish to dispose of property for economic gain will no doubt feel differently .
Agriculture in the Green Wedge must be better supported so that this sector can be more economically secure. Government must be lobbied to provide more support and it is possible that some farmers may need more knowledge of better land management practices to help them look after their land. Low key eco tourism must be better supported too. Small business say people working from home may be better encouraged.
Nillumbik cost to maintain spaces
There is need to refocus recreation, agriculture and businesses to change from flora & fauna degradation to sustainable practices
The current Council seems hell bent on building what are referred to as 'Legacy projects'. While many of these are partly funded by external grants, every project has an ongoing operational and maintenance cost, which will be borne by future generations. It is difficult to maintain existing assets, including the bushland and open space without increasing the burden and spreading the maintenance budget even thinner
People who live here expect to pay their way. We do not ask for caps on rates. Obviously the costs of sustaining this environment demands sacrifices from us . But we are not looking to get rich, by selling up. We want to maintain our simple lifestyle growing our own food, and being responsible citizens who care about building community. We want to looking after the land and contributing our part to combat Climate change.
Loss of agricultural land through subdivision into unproductive trophy blocks.. If tourism is thoughtlessly promoted and numbers/activities intrude on the landscape and ecology the green wedge will be degraded.
Unless the GWMP and related planning scheme are fixed, the property prices in the region will continue to be depressed. People will continue to have to spend mind boggling fortunes just to fight the Nillumbik Planning Office on every proposal. Landowner's livelihood, quality of life, and asset value at retirement will remain a challenge.
High density living will mean less trees
Councils ability to properly maintain green wedge area due to council budgets challenges
Needs more rateable properties in order to finance gaps in the earlier categories
To maintain the natural environment without overdevelopment of residential properties.
Appropriate development. I'd be happier with a mix of activity rather than an exclusive residential enclave.
Need to push the tourism for wineries orchards cafes etc Need some more festivals like the

Hurstbridge Wattle festival .
how to accommodate the expanding population with out loosing open space and low density living.
The greedy people who want to use their Green Wedge property inappropriately or subdivide their property will be an economic challenge to the Green Wedge.
Agriculture should transition to less impact practices.
People have chosen to come to this area because of the nature of the Green Wedge. The kinds of features that make this area unique are based on the environment. If unbridled development is allowed or encouraged, the value of properties will decline, and the natural features which attract tourists will be lost, with resultant loss of tourism income.
Pressure from busy residents, workers and council to not care for this priceless attribute.
Local businesses will go bust because they only cater to ppl who earn a good wage.
Carbon neutral eco tourism should be a priority. Indigenous led walking and exploring tourism should be developed.
The maintenance of roads and the development of viable and efficient public transport options for people living in the new suburbs. Maintaining the Green Wedge in terms of pest control, forest management etc
Pressure by developers on council to maximise land use and destroy green wedge values
see above
maintaining a balance of agriculturally viable farming (especially in face of climate change), tourism and local business is a challenge. if small scale farming becomes unviable this will put pressure on the environment.
There will be pressures on the local council given our low rateable base, created as a result of the Kennett-era council amalgamations that removed the financial vital commercial and industrial areas that had previously comprised part of all Councils eg Eltham Council. The amalgamations resulted in Nillumbik being fortunate to incorporate a large swathe of the Green Wedge, but without the balance of financial sustainability from sufficient commerce and industry zones. However, we can't lose the beautiful environment by slicing it up and increasing the density of housing, commerce and industry. That is not what Nillumbik is about. What would help Nillumbik more is if the State Government stepped in and rezoned parts of Nillumbik and Banyule, to return Montmorency and more of Greensborough to Nillumbik.
There will be pressure from developers to continue to subdivide and increase density. The council need to hold the tension of continuing to improve amenities etc but without compromising on the value of the green wedge. Destruction of green wedge = destruction of Nillumbik brand = reduced appeal = less demand = lower prices / graeter vacancies = less rates; it makes economic sense to preserve the green wedge as much as it is ethically important.
The pressure from developers to get this land and turn it into another Doreen will be a challenge for council. The \$\$\$ these developers will be throwing around, will put pressure on objectivity and decision makers remaining independent. I'm sick of seeing how many trees developers seem to be able to chop down without any pushback and those awful poorly made townhouse on the creek edge of diamond creek look like a University housing and cheapens the area. Fingers crossed that would never get approved again.
Always a tight line between people creating a living and doing it in keeping with our neighbourhood character. But less focus on the developers mighty dollar and more focus on the views of the people who live here.
Developments within the Green Wedge destroy its value and this can occur little by little and suddenly one has nothing.
We ratepayers understand that we are privileged to live in a Green Wedge area and therefore accept paying high rates, However, we are always fearful that inappropriate

development might find its way into our very special environment and slowly erode our township to look just the same as all the others it has already happened to.
A less dense population means fewer people to share the cost, so excellent economic management is essential. A case can be made for more support from the general population, rather than residents of the Green Wedge having to meet all the costs when the Green Wedge is of benefit to Victoria
Not so much an economic challenge as a threat: allowing inappropriate tourism development on the grounds that money needs to be made from green wedge properties. It does not.
Protection of environmental values and reserves (including waterway corridors) needs to be a priority in the coming decades and Melbourne's populations continues to grow and expand through the middle and outer suburbs.
That developers and others will want to use these locations for purposes other than the original purpose (eg. development). It continue be hard to justify the purpose and value of the green wedge against these pressures
I spoke to a store owner recently who was emphatic. "You would not want to be in it for the money" he said. Outer communities have suffered diminishing retail services. So what makes a sustainable community? Population, a reason for being there, an identity and pride are a good start. Combining this idea of sustainable communities and my previous thoughts about strategic management of development in our precious environment leads to the proposition of villages. There are focal points such as Strathewen, Christmas Hills, Panton Hill and Kangaroo Ground and these have degrees of identity and pride - they are a starting point. Hurstbridge is more developed commercially and has huge potential as a food, wine, chic retail centre with tourist appeal. There would be some challenging debates about conservation, population growth, accommodation and planning but I feel there are way of conducting those preliminaries. This survey is a start.
The need for more capital to maintain and manage the Natural Habitat.
Government will not try and protect the wedge hard enough, there is too much money at stake and it will be ruined slowly. It needs to be saved to keep melbourne as a beautiful city. Too much self-interest and not enough fight to maintain what is one of melbourne's most unique areas. Fake agriculture and tourism simply for money.
There is a continued push for more traffic and road development which will segment community and natural spaces.
As more pressure is placed on the current land uses I believe there will be tension between agricultural pursuits and tourism interests and particularly on people wishing to develop other business infrastructure.
The Council's view that the NGW should be exploited for its economic "potential" is a serious worry. Further economic development in the NGW needs to be tempered IF it in any way risks diminishing the NGW's environment and social values.
Pressure from developers
Houses losing value, rates increasing. You're kidding yourselves
The maintaining of the GW putting pressure on rate base. Lack of opportunity for younger people to be able to afford to live in GW.
If a fire rips through the area which is worse than black Saturday, if the property values drop and people are underinsured we will be in a difficult economic position. If that happens will our rates drop too?
The region is the fringe of the Yarra Valley, ranges and rivers, the opportunity to capture that through potential economic strategy will bring both respect to the region and potential to the families working within its structures down to those visiting or purchasing into it.
Increased pressure to provide services (and pay for these by increasing rates and/or population/subdivision Reduced viability of small farm agriculture. Inadequate marketing chains for niche

agriculture??
More needs to be done to attract visitors so our local businesses are sustainable.
No amount of pressure from business or tourism should be allowed to affect the Green Wedge
there is a generational change already occurring in this rural-residential area caused by "acreage properties" being sold on by older residents needing to downsize being superseded by younger families seeking space and renovation opportunities. The new comers are frequently tradesmen and their families. A generational change is good but the future less predicable as new-comers seem not to have time or maybe motivation to care for native bushland. We need to define and accept an new biodiversity will develop and learn how to adapt management
We have more important things to consider for our future children.
People love Nillumbik because it is unique. This attracts business as some people see the opportunity to make money from the attraction of our unique community. The challenge is to keep business and development growth appropriate to the environment.
will continue to have a low rate base of properties. traffic issues will be ongoing
As the climate dries our agricultural land will be come marginal. Hobby farmers with their suburban values will move in. There will be more mowing, lack of understanding of weeds, native plants and feral animals and a reluctance to spend money on fencing and weed removal.
Developers with ready cash will try to change zoning to allow for more housing & subdivisions which inevitably will pre deterimonal to the green wedge.
Under-recognition of long-term economic benefit from environmental tourism.
Allowing options and live off the land and work from home versus increasing rates and property values
Business development
Too many people wanting to attract tourists to the area. Which then has a negative impact on the very aspects that people come to enjoy.
> There will be pressure to subdivide land into smaller blocks > The current Melbourne water plans to sell surplus land are an example of this - the "thin edge of the wedge" so to speak
I enjoy our small Green Wedge townships and the small business es with int hem and others such as wineries etc. along our main and some winding roads. Visiting these tourism businesses as a local is diverting and grab to be able to take friends, to sit in verandas on next to a five and gage all the beautiful landscapes. Perhaps there is room for some steps but I like the mix as it is.
To allow & open up tourism without damage to the threatened species!
we will have too many people moving to Eltham and tourists will have nowhere to go
How much money would be needed to maintain in the long run?
traffic
They might take out all the bushes and trees to build more buildings and that would wreck the environment.
I think the freeway being built will impact the traffic and strip people from happiness and money.
I think that there will be more tourism because it is a good place to live.
It will get more popular and crowded!
The problem in the future for Nillumbik is that there will be over population which will make it nearly the same as places like bundurra or Ivanho. This shall make the Nillumbik region loose its charm of the green.
I think in the future there will be to many tourists and people comeing to live hear, also they

are building to many houses.
Houses are getting built everywhere and so many people are losing their houses for it.
Government services will rise the taxes because things are costing too much.
The relatively small rate base of a council with a large green wedge area means some creativity is required when encouraging families and businesses to move into the area.
Ageing in the Green Wedge is what we want but living on a pension far from services will be challenging. With no public transport the cost of fuel for cars is difficult as it will keep rising & [pensions don't keep up.
Remote living poses economic challenges. It is part of the lifestyle choice. Rates & rebates (farm & environmental) are part of the equation. Sustainable land use and environmental protection must be recognised & rewarded.
Tourism will be a huge challenge and could completely wreck the amenity of the park. I sincerely hope no business development will be allowed as this would be seriously detrimental. No idea what personal finances might have to do with economic challenges to the park??
Many long-term landowners in the Green Wedge see their land as an asset that they should be able to exploit for maximum gain and look forward to the day when they can "make a killing" by selling their land for development.
The inclusion of tourism is a threat to the green wedge environment with increased traffic and development
Ensuring Nillumbik's "clean green" image and environment is also an insurance for our economic future. As the city grows more built up and concreted, our precious green wedge will become even more precious! This is economic sense, and must be the way forward for eco tourism and healthy life style activities including the Arts. What we have in abundance is gumtrees and clean air, kangaroos and happy relaxed people ready to welcome other less fortunate people. Emphasise the arts, wellness, outdoor activities, relaxation, markets, and good food and wine. This will be a growth area in years to come.
environmental damage
We don't seem to be a destination where people want to spend money thus not doing anything to enhance Nillumbik economically, there isn't anything to make you want to visit and stay in Eltham, people drive through to go elsewhere, not to stop and spend which is important to our area
High Rates will drive out existing residents and the wedge will be over developed.
ditto
Maintaining the beauty of this area while accommodating growth will place significant financial burdens on local government and other agencies responsible for protecting and sustaining our environment. How to fund these mandates will be a challenge.
Developers wanting to construct inappropriate buildings.
Farms are being killed off. New people buy and want to put in an orchard and are told they can't. Why not they have a dream. Stop killing passion. If the next person wants to grow trees so be it. Just be there to help them with good advice build happy people
I don't care too much about any emerging businesses within the green areas of the shire. Sure, run a business, as long as it does not impact the environment.
People buying average without the understanding of how to manage their land properly, and there for creating a fire hazard or devaluing the landscape.
The desire of existing and newly arrived landowners to extract maximum "value" from the land as they see it.
We need to have the area to stay used for agriculture as this provides income for the owners which in turn protects the environment because of the fact that they own it. You have to be careful about tourism as it can ruin a place like the green wedge. I was listening to how many people are now at Sherwood Forest up at Woods Point which is causing many issues with traffic, parking and too many people in one place. Our beautiful walking trails can only

handle so many people and so many cars.
Our Council is too small and consequently rates are too high. This places financial stress on people who already live here.
Balancing keeping our area quiet, natural, green, with enabling some people to run businesses, foster tourism and agriculture.
Invests in cottage industries that will provide people's needs.
resources needed to manage the green wedge must be seen as a priority for the Council and there will be competition from other projects.
You need to raise rates if you want to build stadiums, bike paths etc as we do not want council land sold.
As above development of the existing green areas
So much development of shops in Nillumbik, while so many existing shops are vacant. The rates are amongst the highest in Victoria meaning that many residents are finding it harder to stay in the area. The money being put into sporting facilities could be used for better infrastructure.
Green Wedges which serve greater Melbourne deserve more financial support because of a scattered rate base in the larger area
See above: dwindling custom for existing businesses in the face of more attractive options in neighbouring towns to the west, with concomitant loss of employment options leading to an aging population.
Access to high speed internet to be able to work from home
Maintaining a meaningful, sustainable Green Wedge and the economic imperatives of good environmental management.
Maybe government assistance to preserve our bush.
Unsuitable development that destroys the character and uniqueness of the Green Wedge will ultimately be detrimental like destroying the 'goose who laid the golden egg'. There will be nothing worthwhile here to make our area a desirable place to visit. Would be same as developed suburbs of tar and cement. Also overseas visitors are valuing our uniqueness of landscape and natural environment. The artists that are mostly inspired by the natural environment would move out if that changed, hence one of the unique features of the Artisan Hills would be seriously undermined and diminished.
Downgrading of the area caused by inappropriate planning and inferior quality developments
Maintaining current levels of community services with resident expectations
Nillumbik is not viable as farmland, it is only viable for lifestyle properties where the owners main income from sources other than the land. Smaller lots say 1-2-4-8ha lifestyle properties with a house could easily form the majority of Nillumbik to help make this area viable. Rates are a major issue for Nillumbik as we have the highest in the State. Without lifestyle properties Nillumbik is not financially sustainable
Rising costs
The biggest threats to the Green Wedge will be greed and regulatory. The Greens will be too Green and the Conservatives will be too conservative which means reasonable and rational debate won't happen. Money and greed will always win.
More tourism and agricultural development which should not be occurring in Nillumbik's Green Wedge.
I believe over commercialisation by business places a lot of pressure on the environment and wildlife of the area .
D grade road engineers making decisions that are appalling, wasting money on speed traps and intersections that VicRoads would NEVER agree too!! Concerned many staff are running tiny empires within shire that wouldn't exist in real world locations- more accountability required, wasting money that suits few and not the greater good, personal

badge dad run wild.
Council must continue to advocate for increased State Government financial support because of our responsibility in maintaining the character of our Green Wedge which is part of the Melbourne image. Tourism dollars are increasingly important to our Green Wedge economy and the natural scenery and wildlife must be preserved.
Overdevelopment
The challenge faced by Nillumbik is to ensure economic development is suitable for the preservation of the values of the green wedge. Size and bulk of many proposals is now becoming a major concern across Melbourne's green wedges. Nillumbik needs to continue to value small scale passive business proposals that meet the needs of economic development, jobs and the environment. Support of rural based farming activities is essential and ensuring sustainable land practices are worlds best is critical. Increased dwelling numbers within the green wedge will impact on the viability of farming practices due to their desire for urban expectations and lack of understanding of farming activities (mechanical noise, spraying etc). Funding of the green wedges also needs to be addressed, particularly the state level. In Nillumbiks case the Grants Commission should address the rural elements of the shire and fund accordingly. There is also the need for a controlling authority across all green wedges to be setup, this could be funded through a similar scheme to the collection of the parks charge by Melbourne Water etc. Funds would be allocated to enable councils to produce GWMP and planning scheme changes that protect the objectives of the green wedges eg restructure overlays.
I am concerned that green field subdivision of land adjacent to Yan Yean Road may occur. Understandably, property owners on the Nillumbik side see the windfall to those on the other side and ask themselves, why can't they? The shortsightedness of other councils is not something we can dwell on but we must educate our wider community and support our agricultural community
Economic analysis is not appropriate as there is no satisfactory way to put value on the biodiversity, recreational , and aesthetic values of the Green Wedge
As the shire has no major shopping complex developments bringing in major money as the shire chose not to have major money making developments in the shire we will struggle to keep up financially with other municipalities that have the Westfields of Northlands etc . Also having less rate payers is going to force the council to raise a lot of fees across the board , could I suggest stop purchasing art for the few and govern for the majority money spent on art could go to street rubbish collection and maintenance which is a Council core task.
I have no input for this question at the moment
Trying to balance business and economic growth without allowing business to reduce the amount of greenery, i.e development
I think it's will be very hard but extremely necessary to make sure there is no more subdivisions and horrible development.
Increasing pressure from developers to increase density and change character of our wedge
I feel that the pressure to subdivide into smaller plots could become a challenge for governments. The mighty dollar speaks loudly. Local government can be loaded with developers (disguised or otherwise) and they wish to develop at any cost, as long as there is a \$ in it. Evidence of this is the attempted selling off of the parklands in Eltham. Developers would purchase this land and try to have subdivisions put in, and it is for their making of a \$. Look at the high rise that is being developed in Eltham, with minimal parking. It is difficult in Eltham now. It will be the same in Hurstbridge and Wattle Glen before we know it. There will be great pressure put on the Green Wedge and the Urban Growth Boundary by developers to make a dollar. The land owners in the Green Wedge pay huge rates, receive very little for it.
as above
Please see previous responses

The challenge for every aspect of life is achieving the balance, the Green Wedge need to be sustainable which does not mean that every one needs to be made rich from it, but instead see the richness it has to offer and accept that those richness are enough. Tourism in the Green Wedge should be targeted limited and then encouraged. It should be acknowledge the value the equine landholders contribute to the economy of the GW, bush blocks don't add to the GW economy. That doesn't not mean we should bulldoze the bush we just need to acknowledge that rural pasture properties we have are not a threat to the GW.
Pressure from certain groups to develop the green wedge without due concern for it.
Diminishing local agriculture adds cost of bringing food to Melbourne.
The push by a number of vested interests including some wealthy landowners to open up the green wedge to housing and other developments will change forever the current green wedge benefits.
People, investment and business development will dry up if the right balance is not achieved and maintained between protecting the wedge and letting people live there...
Not getting sucked into development approvals that slowly and irreparably remove the protections of the green wedge.
Horrid housing developments are ruining the area. Wedge is being pressured by too many people arriving en masse.
If we lose our unique environment, we lose tourism and all the small businesses that it supports.
'- Population pressures across Melbourne. - Council weakening our Green Wedge. - Electing the "wrong" councillors who support more subdivisions.
Increased property values meaning a polarising of community diversity
Need to promote small business opportunities ie. B&B, wineries, farm gate, craft etc.
All of the above to remain "the green wedge"
Landowners who are finding the maintenance and protection of the Green Wedge as it applies to their properties too difficult to manage and selling up. There is a need for further grants from government for private landowners to maintain and protect the environment and wildlife etc on their properties.
Trouble attracting investment
Threats from over development and subdivisions turning area into small blocks with inappropriate housing and shedding, clearing of land and unproductive, weed infested landscapes. Sensitive tourism around current strengths of the area: arts, wineries, Sugarloaf park, local trails etc should be encouraged without any new development
Loss of agricultural land through the potential for the Shire without strong planning controls to allow excessive bulk and scale of built form development that will permanently dominate and alienate agricultural land use. The need to proactively support niche agricultural enterprises that encourage and expand 'farm to the plate activities' such as the excellent farmers market in Eltham.
'The need for better, faster internet services: - to allow businesses to be competitive against those located in areas serviced by faster internet - to better facilitate working from home - to make communication safer in times of emergency, such as bushfires The threat to those businesses which rely on the environmental beauty of the GW for their livelihood, eg. related to the arts, culture, green businesses (solar, plants, nurseries, green built environment), tourism, health, hospitality, horse-riding, organic products, wineries, markets and festivals. This threat is a constant from those who pressure for the freedom to destroy the environment which other people need for their income.
Landowners need to be recompensed in some way for retaining and protecting native flora and fauna. The value of retaining it in its pristine state needs to be recognised. Farmers need to

be supported in being able to continue their farming. Large commercial ventures should be not allowed.
The ever-increasing price of properties in the area make it very difficult for young families to move/stay in the area. This then in turn affects the number of students at the local schools. When I went to primary school in St Andrews in the 1980s there were 130-150 kids, now it is 50-60 kids
The GW will always be under pressure from economic interests wishing to exploit the land for personal gain. Small lot development puts the GW under particular pressure
people getting sick of paying huge rates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased tourism and catering for it - Loss of agricultural land to greedy property developers (just look at current council)
Don't want Council/govt approving developments that are out of character. Eg. businesses that are unsavoury or their premises don't fit in with the character, eg. franchises/chain stores.
Green Wedge areas are targets for developers to build inappropriate resorts or hotels because of their natural beauty and the fact that the land is clean, no need for expensive demolition of existing buildings and infrastructure. Nillumbik has an opportunity to promote sustainable development such as eco-friendly walking trails and eco-friendly, small footprint, demountable camps.
over development
I think there will be significant economically driven pressures in the future in the form of demand for land development (new properties and intensification in existing areas).
It is impossible to put a value on the "Lungs of Melbourne" and Nillumbik needs to lead the way to show that the Green Wedge is for all of Melbourne and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that it is retained and valued.
Being a low density area, there will be little funds to maintain and protect this beautiful area.
<p>Long term if all the farming land is reduced to 40 acre hobby-farm blocks, none of them will be economically viable as a farm.</p> <p>If you want Tourism to grow in this region, then the Green Wedge has to be accessible - preserved, but accessible, and that means using the hamlets (Smiths Gully, St Andrews, Panton Hill etc) and some farmers to service the region with accommodation, eateries, bakeries, etc.</p>
cant fund the green wedge the way we are going - this has been evident for many years the green wedge is a political football - State Governments(both sides) don't want to interfere or adequately fund it
Unless the planning scheme is changed to address the 100 acre limit re developments in the green wedge the majority of landholders adjacent to the Mernda/Doreen growth corridor will have very limited capacity to support environmental regeneration of their properties, especially in the context of ever increasing rates associated with increasing land values. It is imperative that landholders have the capacity to generate an appropriate income to support enhancing the environmental values of the green wedge, and at the same time make an economic contribution to their community through the generation of jobs associated with the development of their properties. If we don't support this sort of activity the green wedge will experience further environment degradation and the economic divide between adjacent communities will widen, which has the potential over time to generate all sorts of social problems.
Up until recently, Eltham has been known for its native vegetation and parks and arts and crafts, but with the amount of space being carved up for development we are losing that uniqueness and becoming just another suburb. It will all depend on decisions to keep or discard our green wedges in favour of greed.
Pressure from the top end of town to commercialise everything that is not bolted down .

See previous answers Q2
I enjoy shopping locally. The strip shipping entres are great. Walking, meeting locals, buying local produce, enjoying th tree canopy on hot days are a special part of the green wedge. We must enhance not destroy our existing environment that attracts many visitors, artists, musicians, festivals and farmers markets. I have several friends who travel regularly to Hurstbridge in particular to enjoy difference shops and their unique products.
The appropriate protection of the Green Wedge requires additional funding. This could be achieved in part through limited development of tourism related business that both promotes and protects the environment and rural industry.
Low rate base prompting Council to modify existing usage regulation and encouraging inappropriate development
The drive for making an income on larger properties will continue to be a driver for subdivision or more intensive development (e.g. tourism).
To compete with online economics
increasing pressure for development
The Green Wedge needs to balance environmental and economic aspirations; we need to support local businesses that will attract visitors, rather than promote the development of an overgrown environment that is dangerous in summer and ignored in winter.
The greatest economic challenge facing the Green Wedge may be the size of the rate base within the Nillumbik Shire and balancing the needs and desires of the urban areas with the needs and desires of the rural area. If development in the rural area is allowed to expand to a point where the environment is being threatened there will be long lasting and negative effects to the Green Wedge. The hardest thing in any area of life can be finding a balance between competing ideas and demands. This applies particularly to the Green Wedge and its environment and to the rules, regulations and enforcement of these issues.
Our beautiful landscape attracts people to live, work and visit here. If we reduce our green-ness we will lose that attraction. I love shopping locally to buy locally produced food where possible and dislike big shopping centres or stores. We need to be able to grow things here so we can sell them locally.
It is important that those living in the Green Wedge acknowledge that they chose to live there as it is and not see their properties as ways to enhance their own financial state either by development or inappropriate business.
Again, to protect that which is already in place to stop development overriding the special place Nillumbik already is. Even if presently people might have different views, what about the next generations whose views may revert back to understanding the natural ways!?
The economic challenges arise from pressures mentioned above.
Too much control over landowners. Permits making it hard for small to medium farming and artisan industries. Too much input from people on small residential blocks. Eltham should not have any say on the way landowners manage their land.
Obviously not enough cash means there are immediate limitations to the Shire doing anything but allow all kinds of inappropriate development, unless it can convince State/Federal Governments to provide ongoing funding for all future shortfalls, but we cannot see that happening.
The cost of maintaining the green wedge as a precious asset for all of Melbourne won't be adequately met by State and local governments and this will lead to a call for more development in the green wedge so that the rate base can be increased, which really means destroying the green wedge in order to save it!
there needs to be more properties allowed to be developed to attract tourism ;wineries; walking, horse riding and cycle trails need to be developed
No tourists... looks just like Doncaster or Bulleen.
I am concerned that some landowners may have purchased acreage in the hope that they

<p>could get the rules changed to enable subdivision or multiple dwellings on their land. It is important to maintain the current zones so that the bush and open spaces are maintained, and not sacrificed for private profit ahead of the public interest.</p> <p>I also foresee calls for greater development of tourist facilities in the Shire. While we really enjoy our occasional visits to the wineries, the country-style pubs and the St Andrews Market, the attraction of these places will be destroyed if the green areas between our townships and venues are destroyed.</p>
<p>People who want to work close to home and do not realize that putting industry and many jobs in the green Wedge means less of the values are left to be enjoyed. A half hour drive is better than a factory next door.</p>
<p>Tourism</p>
<p>Tourism can be developed. People who live in Nillumbik choose to do so because they value the bush environment.</p>
<p>Business rental with higher and higher which can limit the local business.</p>
<p>Many local businesses will struggle without the ability to expand and grow, while catering for visitors.</p>
<p>Nillumbik is responsible for its own destiny and needs to shake off the shackles of the past and become self sufficient to the extent it can otherwise Nillumbik would likely ne merged with another council.</p>
<p>Agriculture on the urban fringe is not viable. rates, land taxes, the lack of alternative uses are prohibitive. It is virtually impossible to submit a business case that would justify a considerable investment that has the potential to create a sustainable cash flow. Costs associated with the maintenance of green wedges are immense.</p>

Please tell us about the regulatory challenges you think Nillumbik's Green Wedge will face in the future.

Tree clearance around house sites beyond the 10m limit because most trees are more than 10m tall and could fall onto houses or outbuildings
I think Nillumbik needs to decide whether it is a commercially based, high density housing shire, or a rural shire. It cannot be both.
Pressure from the Federal and State governments to increase higher density housing.
Unless the regulatory environment is carefully and sensitively managed there is the danger of heading down the preservation at all costs path, which would spell the end of the Green Wedge other than as a place for urban dwellers to visit and recreate, without contributing to its future. Absurd restrictions such as those included in the recent C81/101 proposed amendments, in spite of the opinion of the minorities who initiated them would see the gradual erosion of any vestige of liveability in the area.
Regulatory restrictions relating to signage are not helpful to local business, while each business having unrestricted allowance would be chaos, a large sign at the North and South entry of Eltham Town would help the significant amount passing traffic realize there is an accessible retail precinct available. This signage could detail general precinct details, eg. 5 restaurants, 15 cafes, 3 supermarkets, 32 specialty stores, 5 healthcare ... etc.
The risk of short sighted and greedy politicians across the political spectrum bowing to pressure from equally greedy developers! All of whom do not give a care for the Green Wedge but only care about their pockets!
If land is over regulated it won't encourage investment and therefore protection from land owners.
Anything clearing and or cutting down needs to be policed more and more remedial work done
Unecessary protests from greenies
Too many restrictions that limit freedom as landowners
Federal and State Governments must be repeatedly and clearly made to understand the challenges of this interface Shire. However, Local Government must lead by example if Council vigorously defends our a Green spaces then other tiers of government will fall in line.
Continued pressure from developers and government buildings act changes
Stupid and out of touch councils.
The quality of population planning and urban planning in Victoria is such that I think there will be a continual battle to prevent urban sprawl into the GW. The Shire has to be prepared for that battle and be unrelenting. My travels overseas have also convinced me that our local town planning is well below international best practice for areas like the GW. I suspect that Council would make a good investment if it sent a small group of senior officers and Councillors overseas (particularly to France and to Scandinavia) to see what can be done - and should be.
The debate between conflicting interests that are often ill informed will require careful formulating of regulations. Simplification and flexibility of regulations should be attempted while retaining the green wedge of farmland and natural regrowth. Small businesses including farms, homestays , retail, catering , home crafts etc should be able to proceed with minimum regulation.
The weakening of regulations and the tick box planning will be the biggest threat to the green wedge. It seems like building approvals have been rising since 2012 based on the stats on the Councils website- build over it and it will be gone for ever. We already have approved growth corridors - keep them and keep the green wedge green.
Continual pressures from developers to ezpand the urban growth boundaries, stupid

decision by VCAT
The greatest challenge at the moment is to have Councillors enact policies sympathetic with the traditions of the Shire, as a Green Wedge community. It's highly hypocritical to advertise as being "Green" and, at the same time, promote "brown" policies. Council is there for the whole community, not the few who could make a dollar by re-zoning.
We must resist development or there is no reason to have a green wedge
Threat of planning scheme changes allowing increased development in areas currently zoned 'Green Wedge'. Apparently, Councillors are keen to open up the area to development - massive threat.
Preferential behaviour toward powerful developers at the expense of unique and previous protected environments.
Pressure on the urban growth boundary. Please provide strong support and landholder clarity that this will stay as currently set.
Over regulation of Private land could impact on land owners
I think that there will be a "oh shit what have we done" event across the wedge in the next 10 years that will dramatically change the stupidity and rigidity of the regulatory burden imposed on rural Nillumbik green wedge landowners. In particular around - the creation of defensible space, the appropriate bushfire prevention and maintenance activity on public land, the management of livestock and paddock areas, and the appropriate existence and use of dams in areas with no access to town water. All of this will be welcome. I live in hope that the environmental extremists will moderate - but recognise this is unlikely. The one thing that is positive in this regard is that most of them are 20-30 years older than me - and so at some stage in the future they can reasonably be expected to relocate elsewhere - perhaps to a nice forest in central Victoria - or a nice beach in NSW.
Only use suggestions from property owners ALL others must be banned . What would your family be like if people of neighboring city's had the right to demand how you lived
I fear the desire to make money will override the importance of the fast disappearing culture of nillumbik and the critical importance of green wedge on the health of Melbourne
I think Council will be constantly under pressure from vested interests to allow more development to the detriment of our environment and therefore us all.
Pressure to build, build, build to accommodate increasing population.
Being one of the 'Lungs of Melbourne ' and an interface council , Nillumbik should receive additional State and Federal assistance for maintaining it . State (and Federal) regulations should ensure protection for all Green Wedges now and into the future .
If local political pressure leads to loss of regulatory oversight of developments by council, we'll get more and more rural residential type development, therefore loss of the Green Wedge. Zoning controls must be maintained; also local planning policies must be strengthened to preserve landscape values, biodiversity and natural bushland. Rural landowners must accept they're subject to council regulation in the public interest.
Ask the Government to better support the Green Wedge they have regulated by encouraging Councils to enforce existing regulations and introduce others to help stop the decline in biodiversity and clean up our river system with the great network of tributaries that exist in Nillumbik.
Resistance from established businesses to embrace a new approach towards biodiversity.
Increased restrictions such as the recent (now removed) C101 and C81 amendments. Reducing the autonomy of residents decreases livability.
too much building, too much population.
I think that as city Siders without a clue move into the area and expect the comforts and amenities of more modern estate type living, Council will be pushed to develop the area at the expense of everything that makes The Green Wedge so unique.

<p>I think the regulatory body needs to take a stand to keep what we have the haven it still is today. Time is running out and we can't undo what has been done, so refuse pressure from the families that want a city lifestyle - they can stay in the cities - people who want a green environment will pay good money to live here too.</p> <p>PLEASE don't make our shire like all the others for financial gain - keep it unique and special through careful regulation. Perhaps employ indigenous persons to assist in keeping the bush lands safe and weed free through ancient landcare practices. Offer private land owners incentives for weed and pest control.</p> <p>Please look after and maintain The Green Wedge and stop cutting it up for profit.</p>
<p>The challenges for the Green Wedge will be : people wanting to get rich by subdividing their land. Legislation allowing this will bring these effects : the infrastructure will not survive , the character of the Green Wedge will be lost, vegetation will be lost, wild life gone , species of grasses,flora, animals small wildlife become extinct.</p>
<p>For many years, the GWMP and planning scheme has been rigged against people. It will take years of fighting to fix the problem.</p>
<p>that with no significant commercial areas the shire is unviable. please advocate to merge with whittlesea or banyule</p>
<p>There is a divide between east and west of Yan Yean Rd that needs to be adjusted. This does not mean another Laurimar but greater flexibility is needed and it has to go beyond the small Young arrambat township plan.</p>
<p>I am very concerned about the weakening of the Green Wedge.</p>
<p>Threats of potential compromise to green wedge spaces by greedy non-local developers. We need to be sure that the integrity of the green wedge protections is firmly in place.</p>
<p>Depending on the Government of the day there will be pressure to reduce the size of the Green Wedge or introduce more development in these areas. Putting at risk the tree canopy, green open spaces and loss of habitat for wildlife.</p>
<p>same as above</p>
<p>The greedy people will want to use their properties inappropriately and try to change the rules.</p>
<p>local regs that adversely affect the environment and the cultural ambience</p>
<p>I hope the green wedge protection is increased not decreased because the value of it is enormous for the planet.</p>
<p>See previous comment. Increasingly the local government seems to want to enable landowners to do whatever they want with the land. We are custodians who are privileged to live on the land, but that shouldn't entitle us to do whatever we want with no thought of broader consequences to the environment and the community.</p>
<p>Pressured by developers and others to erode the Green Wedge.</p>
<p>Changes that will change why we live where we do.</p> <p>I don't mind paying higher rates as long as my environment and living standard is protected</p>
<p>Apart from councils wanting to urbanise the Green Wedge and increase rate income? Apart from councils wanting to reap income from tourism and big business? We are not the Yarra Valley. We are a small hilly, rocky outcrop near suburbia. The residents will be challenged with drafts of onerous regulations attempting to minimise/eliminate risk - e.g. bushfire, floods, falling trees, road safety barriers, etc.</p> <p>The population who have chosen to live in the green wedge have also chosen to live with those risks and forgo increased amenities of the city . I have lived here for 30 years and the last 10 years have been full of impositions and threats to turn this into a 'safe' place. People who want to live a simpler life engaged with nature will be regulated out of living in the green wedge by imposition of costs to comply with building regulations, personal safety, etc. The only people who will be able to afford to build in the green wedge will be the wealthy who commute via helicopter.</p>

I fear the temptation for the local council to give in to the promise of more income from developers (forgetting a corresponding loss in environmental appeal and hence tourism dollars), and watering down the current protections for the Green Wedge.
Unnecesary use of hard surfaces due to safety standards eg wide asphalt walking tracks replacing informal narrower tracks increasing run off and erosion of creeks.
Political leaders might not care about the Green Wedge and be influenced by other interests such as business to encroach on it.
Loss of character and environment through lax planning
Council wants more money...higher rates etc. It will get easier to take down trees so more units can be built.
Regulatory systems and items should encompass an educational aspect to inform and enrich a cultural base of sustainability and community based self regulation while still being supervised by regulatory authorities. Such a system should be built into school curriculum and supported in all aspects of activity where the environment endures an impact.
I am deeply concerned that a hostile state government (LNP) could shift the Urban Growth Boundary and allow more (unrestrained) development. This would be an extremely lazy solution, a straight handout to developers and would do major damage to both Melbourne as a liveable metropolis and, of course, it would destroy Nillumbik as a GW shire.
Pressures from developers to sell Green Wedge land and change building regulations due to population growth and expansion.
see above
Councils and state governments do not always properly understand the value of the Green Wedge to locals, the wider Melbourne community and beyond, and may attempt to dilute planning regulations to allow developments that do not preserve Green Wedge environmental values.
See above for issues requiring firm regulation. Also better surveillance of property development processes preventing people from breaking regulations before they actually do it.
There is a temptation for governments to place higher density housing above the environment. This would be a mistake. The Green Wedge must be protected. Melbourne cannot continue to expand into rural and bushland areas.
Losing the support (financial and legislative support) for the Green Wedge could cause irreversible damage within a short period of time. It might only take 1 or 2 governmental terms to cause damage that could take centuries to properly restore.
Nillumbik must not succumb to the slicing and dicing of the Green Wedge despite any regulatory changes that may permit just that. Instead, Nillumbik must remain steadfast in preserving what makes Nillumbik so special and sought-after - the Green Wedge!
Continued push by the current council to move the urban growth boundary to allow incremental development and land subdivision. Lack of appropriate environmental planning scheme controls.
Development too close to waterways. Waterways should have wide buffer zones so that water entering them is filtered.
Money will come at the expense of it residents and become another high density common suburb
10/30 is decimating Nillumbik. I fully understand why it came in but clearing blocks is criminal.
Further pressure by one or more levels of government to try for a quick fix to a problem by allowing the destruction of part of the Green Wedge.
Ongoing pressure to develop can be in conflict with the wishes and needs of the residents. The current situation in which many applications seem to be routinely refused by the Council and referred to VCAT, means that there are often long delays and resident resentment. The

roles and powers of the different levels of government should be clarified and the resolution of such matters expedited
It is already happening: there is pressure from some Councils for the relaxation of the green wedge protection regime.
When the city meets the country it's a disaster. I used to be able to ride my horse down Yan Yean Rd. Now I am landlocked and can't ride anywhere locally. I fear an overregulation of animals and the things already in place on our farms.
Pressure to rezone and change planning controls to open up the Green Wedge for development.
Going forward you need to allow land owners to make decisions about their future and not have these randomly imposed by a council that has not idea - we all look after our land and live here because we love it and our animals we need to work together
Constant pressure to re-zone these for development
Facilitating population growth, commercial success and the environment without losing control.
There will be pressure from those who seek to promote commercial development in the GW, or from landowners who seek to profit from subdivision. Fre threat will encourage too much vegetation removal, and for this reason residential development should be discouraged.
Government will not try and protect the wedge hard enough, there is too much money at stake and it will be ruined slowly. It needs to be saved to keep melbourne as a beautiful city. Too much self-interest and not enough fight to maintain what is one of melbourne's most unique areas.
more council interference
The main challenge is whether governments will actually act to protect and preserve this area.
Weakening laws protecting the area from development,
Pressure for development of both residential and business within township zones.
I think there will be pressure to subdivide land for housing, pressure to take land for freeways and general lack of consideration for the corridor once made for native animals. I think people who do not live in the area, will make decisions that will lose the lungs and great green wedge of melbourne. I think I will be have to move if this happens as it would be so disappointing to see such beautiful landscape destroyed.
Resisting pressure to open up more areas to developement .
I think there will be ongoing attempts to soften planning regulations to allow for increased housing density and more development.
Councillors not caring about the area and wanting to develop due to personal ambition / self gain.
Hopefully responsible management of high bushfire risk areas becomes a higher priority than the trees at all cost mentality.
As far as permits go, they need to be done case by case. Not all properties are the same and this needs to come into account
As above.
The low rate base will continue to be an issue for the shire into the future. Increased demand for services with limited capacity to raise increase rate revenue. The residents of the shire can not be expected to face continued rate rises which are higher than other councils merely due to the boundaries that were drawn up many years ago. The boundaries need to be reviewed
As above. If local council wants to develop the area, then the zoning may be changed and the whole area and in particular the Bend of Islands will be affected by any change to the zoning and therefore could face destruction of the bush we have protected for such a long

time.
The Council should not interfere with the Green Wedge
Concerned that govt and council will allow sub division of land under 2 acre's which we will then lose the country feel and look. Increase in division of land in the Shire of Whittlesea has caused major traffic gridlocks on our roads.
The interests of those that have no direct, financial or social interest in the area have too much influence over what happens.
Balancing the wishes of residents with the resources available and with what is realistic in a Green Wedge. Many people are wilfully unaware of the issues associated with living in a rural area which is fire prone and drought prone.
Hopefully none.
As the state grows, the government will continue to grab at the land. I'm not sure how you stop this. Greed and growth tends to find a way.
Nillumbiks Green Wedge will face the same problems as it does now. The federal government & state government are quite clear about the protection of native vegetation as well as clearing laws in regard to bushfires. The council continues to allow a lack of understanding of these laws to persist in the community which results in a floating of the rules. Fines and follow ups are required.
Planning controls will need to be enforced managed to ensure the integrity of the green wedge.
Inadequate enforcement of planning control.
Setting Green Wedge in stone for multiple future generations like National Parks
State & Local government
> Effective management to pressure & improve biodiversity > Resistant of pressure of development & smaller blocks > Continued action support for GW by council.
> Governments come and go, local councils come and go. Short term decisions can cause irreplaceable changes / damage to environments. > Existing mechanisms that seek to protect the environment may be watered down.
When is a plan a plan? Until the next council on government decides a review is needed. The challenge facing all Green Wedges is that Melbourne's population is expanding not been on living so much is apartments in activity centres and there is pressure to release GW land. We never get this open space back there must be a way of finding appropriate agencies to care for this land.
The swipe of a pen could destroy or could protect the green wedge into the future!
the roads will become too busy
Overpopulation
People ride through the bushes when they aren't actually aloud to, and that will get people arrested if the federal government find out.
I don't understand the question
traffic issues
Taxes and good quality meat, dairy and vegetables.
With future population growth and pressure from developers, well defined regulations and regular reviews will be necessary sot hat the green wedge meets future needs but is able to mention it's originally intended function.
All forms of Government should work together to protect & enhance the Green Wedge for people today & into the future. There needs to be bipartisan protection always.
All properties are regulated by planning scheme zones and overlays. These provisions are applied to protect lifestyles, environment, commercial activities and community amenity.

Governments should apply and consistently enforce provisions to achieve long term security to recognised values.
Emailing council to know that we support all good regulations protecting environment & to keep present GWMP which has worked very well. Following the rules ensures to produce this good result
That all depends on how sympathetic governments are to the idea of a green wedge as compared to perceived economic benefits if development is allowed
The State Government is looking for land to house people. Instead of establishing satellite cities with less stress, it is clear they are looking to divide up land in the green wedge and dump more families in this special area.
There will be disputes as to who controls the land
Concern governments will remove protection for these irreplaceable life support systems
Nillumbik Shire's caving onto the unceasing demand from subdividers to make profit and destroy the Green Wedge by replacing it with endless, unsustainable suburbs
As above.
Although the green wedge was set aside many years ago for conservation, there are many who see it merely as another blank canvas for development and continue to lobby for its eventual destruction. It is more important now than ever due to climate change to preserve the green wedge and enhance its biodiversity.
People from overseas are land-banking land in Warrandyte expecting the green wedge restrictions on subdivision to be lifted by politicians. Given past examples of corruption in local councils pressure will be exerted to make this happen
There will no doubt be pressure from property developers to subdivide blocks. While this seems to be superficially the answer to Melbourne's housing crisis, it is a short term solution, and would only render Nillumbik "more of the same"...Our point of difference is the Green Wedge and if we can save it for future generations, then we will be thanked by Melbourne Greater as well as the Nillumbik residents.
traffic infrastructure
Additional pressure on Building Zoning and Heritage retention
New Planning Laws will allow high density living in a zone there is very poor infrastructure.
ditto
Strengthen environmental protection. Protect the voiceless (animals). Protect against the threat of individuals working without environmental guidance. We need to take effective action, not just 'talk about' them. Landownership involves rights as well as responsibilities. The Green Wedge is a collective responsibility - for all of Melbourne, for the future of further generations.
People from the city working in the Shire with no understanding of rural issues.
No commitment to the green wedge by the Nillumbik Council. If there was there would be no need for this survey.
Yet more regulations, overlays and red tape.
The gradual fall back from protecting the green wedge by the councillors.
As I mentioned above due to the unique landscape of Nillumbik , land holders find it difficult to manage there land through steepness and size of there blocks and eventually weeds will take over creating a fire hazard and devaluing land in this area.
The push from Local and State Government to change the planning scheme to have more people living in the area. This will have a negative impact on our lifestyle and the amenity of the area.
Honestly the council staff need to be in some cases more educated on the realities of rural life., They are the ones with all the power to grant permits and set conditions, but sometimes the people doing so just don;t understand and make things harder than they need to be.

Nillumbik has to wake up and allow sustainable living communities to develop in the area.
The State and Federal governments may have differing views about the importance of preserving nature. The Council will need to stand firm. Local councils see the impact of over development on their constituents and must be vigilant in resisting the reduction of open space for people to enjoy.
Continued pressure to move the urban growth boundary out (most often done by moving small anomalous pieces year after year. Allowing development on smaller lot sizes historically allowed to sub-divide, allowing people to remove trees on private land and not having a Council tree replacement strategy for public land. Virtually no new trees are planted on public land or roadsides now.
The State Gov't will make uninformed decisions, affecting our lives, that benefit those who provide political donations.
Housing development will put a strain on transport infrastructure such as road and rail, government bodies will look to amend planning guidelines to facilitate changes for this.
Sub division, tighter domestic animal regulation
As above
There are signs that the local government preferred direction in Green Wedge Management is for population increase not complying with the need for this to be contained at the site of services in townships. (Refer State Planning Policy Framework 11.06-7 Green Wedges) Green Wedge Management Planning features a populist approach (Community Panel) which has the appearance of the ultimate democracy, but in fact democracy must be guided in large part by expert opinion which will be lacking at Panel and Council level.
Pressure to subdivide by developers and government. Rates increase.
See above: Nillumbik regulations and requirements are out of step with other areas and do little to permit a resilient Green Wedge in the future.
CFA new guidelines for clearing.
There is a high risk of lobbying by self interested developers and landowners to governments to weaken the current legislation that is in place to protect our unique and valuable biodiversity.
Decisions being made on the basis of economic returns rather than what is best for the environment. Downgrading of the area caused by inappropriate planning and inferior quality developments
Local Govt. is the main instigator of unjust regulatory restrictions, state govt. needs to restrict local govt. and simplify planning. State Govt. is responsible for the viability of GW's and must not allow Local Govt. to overly restrict land use, such as limiting building opportunities within this GW.
We have infrastructure which is superior to many urban blocks and the Government, utilities and meddling city people are impacting our ability to live the way we want but also forcing us to have larger blocks when smaller ones would be safer for neighbours who already have smaller blocks. We went to the meeting on 2nd July and we all noted what our concerns were and one person went around putting black crosses on all of our work making a larger than life impact on what was a 12 to one ratio of people that were for progress and smaller blocks. This is counterproductive when all that was needed was to say that they were happy as they were. This is why no progress occurs with this council as the minority make noise and we all pay.
Over governed
That is quite a big question to answer in such a small box! I think Nillumbik council would be better equipped to answer that.
I believe that local council and state and federal governments are creating challenges for the green wedge by allowing too much development of the area which in turn destroys the very reason that people move to the area in the first place.

Vision for balance between development and green wedge. I'm sure I will be forced off (which is disgusting) as the housing estates march closer to my door. 49 years and I would be happy for another 20 but it will be the developers making money not me. Fire management, transport and parking - no I don't want to walking from an oval car park with a sore leg.
Council's main challenge is to accept that State Government's oversight on environmental protection comes from a scientific assessment and monitoring that appears to be outside their current experience. Council's proposal to lobby for a reduction in protection is an unexpected diversion from policy supported by the majority of residents and visitors. In the more distant future there will be population pressures that will be damaging to the GW and it is important that Melbourne's spread is limited and diverted to regional cities
This area is a major challenge. If the green wedges are to survive then regulation and controls are imperative and most importantly education on why these are required. The green wedges have been in place for nearly fifty years and yet there is still little understanding of their purpose, aims and objectives, perhaps we need a licence to live in the green wedge just as we do to drive on the roads. Watering down of controls and increasing uses formerly prohibited into green wedges along with the introduction of Vic Smart is providing the means to dismantle the green wedges from the inside.
Nillumbik can't stay in the dark ages with its development rules, but it is a challenge to allow progress whilst not ruining the local community.
If the Green groups get their way, no-one will be living here. The constant regulations and interference with the community. Please leave us in peace. We manage our land and respect the wildlife.
By changing zoning and / or allowing over development to occur. Not considering building design with the area
It needs to make harsher laws on subdivisions and development
The challenge is to enforce the rules in the face of lawlessness. A personal bugbear of mine is people being allowed to build on the skyline, ridges or hilltops. Not many civilised countries in the world would allow this particularly the UK.
* Acknowledging the role that small property landholders make to the sustainability of the Nillumbik Green Wedge * How do we protect the value of grazing land?
Pressure from the Liberal Party and Liberal Party aligned councillors to turn Nillumbik into a Darebin environment.
Excessive housing and over population
Action is needed to strengthen environmental protection against the threat of individuals working without environmental guidance. This means action to protect against the issuing of retrospective permits which enable owners to flout existing rules. Change the existing planning schemes to enable enhancement and expansion of significant landscapes and animal corridors. Regulatory frameworks are needed so that new developments are ecologically sustainable; and promote environmental sustainability in whatever we do. Landownership involves rights as well as responsibilities. The Green Wedge is our collective responsibility - for all of Melbourne, for the future of our kids, and their kids, and theirs
I think the attempt to water down the Green Wedge is extremely worrying, especially given the vested interests involved...
The push for land to be subdivided into smaller blocks.
Over the past few years we have seen many attempts to turn the Green Wedge into a theme park for people to drive through and enjoy the views on the way to the Yarra Valley. A fair balance needs to be struck between the rights of land owners and preserving the environmental aspects of the area.
Over development, selfish personal interest of individuals wanting to maximise land development.
Once changes are made to the green wedge, they will not be able to be reversed and the

breaking up of the green wedge will result in the loss of the effect of the "lungs" of the city. This affects all Melbournians.
It will probably become harder to get permission and or permits
VCAT - overruling local governments decision to reject planning permits.
I think the local government needs to be aware of the needs of horse riders in the community - we keep a lot of people employed because of our hobby - and we need safe places to ride
Planning needs to be thought through and to be something that works for the area and not simply developers.
The push by a number of vested interests including some wealthy landowners (and current Councillors) to open up the green wedge to housing and other developments will change forever the current green wedge benefits.
The local councils alignment to push developments despite very poor environmental quality of the developments
Lack of ability to have strong enough planning controls
Unless the autocratic and overzealous regulations CHANGE to reflect the economic, social and bushfire realistic demands of residents , businesses and visitors , the green wedge will end up a large state park that will overgrow and have occasional visitors - BUT not a great place to live ...
That the council will take away the protections to allow for economic and tourist development.
Council has no aesthetic judgement, hence the approval of developer "boxes", which are grey, ugly and all look the same.
Want stable regulatory policy.
Greater Government regulations without increased services
Pressure by Melbourne Water to subdivide Christmas Hills RCZ4 to RCZ3. This is inappropriate for the Green Wedge.
Same as above. That it remains "the Green Wedge" is the most important of all - considering the clearing of land all around Nillumbik at present and the earth's need to provide enough clean air for all species to survive.
Ensuring the regulatory integrity of the Green Wedge as it currently exists will remain a challenge for the shire. This includes the need to acknowledge that small property holders make a significant contribution to the sustainability of the Green Wedge. Furthermore they are an integral part of the whole that was envisioned at the time of creating the Green Wedge they are not an anomaly that has grown up over time .
Vcat and council are seeking fiscal returns as opposed to staying true to what nillumbik is all about
Whole of Green Wedge is under threat from all levels of government looking for more housing, development etc and rate revenue. Green Wedges need vigorous defence and a recognition and support at all levels of government
The council belief that it is important to change the style of Eltham and make the place a high density suburb. This council is to blame and everyone will be voted out at the next election.
The main regulatory challenge will be the development of a revised Green Wedge Management Plan that supports the agricultural and conservation land uses that are the heart of the Green Wedge. And in turn support strategic planning to this end in any revision of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing pressure for development within the GW - Increasing pressure to extend the township UGB into the GW - Pressure to increasingly streamline planning applications in the interest of applicants and planning officers, with little consideration of accessibility or opportunity for interest groups

(Koori, environmental, cultural or other), as in the recent project "Reforming the VPP". - Increasing pressure by some GW landowners for the public to fund the maintenance of their land – regardless of whether their farming practices have contributed to the extent of their maintenance requirements. .
Political pressure will always challenge the Wedge with population growth.
I think the main issue is that our local and state government are more for development than protecting the areas set out by previous governments to protect native flora, fauna and animal that are at risk of extinction Money and looking after there Mates (including Ex Councillors) seem to be the main push of the breakup of these areas for commercial development
Nillumbik hierarchy don't seem to be concerned about large inappropriate developments in the GW. Even the Ombudsman's office is complicit with allowing current regulations to be exempted for some developers. VCAT also need to be on board to protecting the GW.
People wanting to change policy/regulations that will destroy the Green Wedge by allowing development, clearing, large scale tourism ventures and extending urban boundaries and changing allowable land uses.
Nillumbik and other GW will face ongoing challenges through pressure to relax controls and bit by bit erode the protections. Even though GW are protected by planning provisions not GWMPs, it is nonetheless is possible that this GWMP review could give rise to proposed planning scheme amendments which would then be considered at State Government level.
Getting the right balance between over development of land and fairer regulations for landowners being able to subdivide their land. Our 20 acre property has 17 smaller properties on one boundary. These smaller parcels of land are 1 or 2 acres in size and cause some concern to us with residents and animals roaming on our land. There have been 2 instances where we have had neighbours setting fire to their gardens and in turn burning our back fence and bush.
vic roads taking over properties and decreasing their value people wanting to subdivide
'- No need for more regulations but sensible regulations - Enforcement of regulations
Have heard there are Councillors who are pro-development, pro sub-divisions, pro destroying the Green Wedge. This is of HUGE concern to me and my family, community, and the environment, flora/fauna, society and the world we live in.
Need more support through clearer environmental protection for our rangers and Nillumbik officers to advise on and enforce sustainable practices.
The challenge is presented by landholders and regulators (including coucillors) who seek to compromise and modify the Green Wedge status
get rid of the greenies they are worst than burgun
Regulating development given the likely demand for more development will be a regulatory challenge. If the intent of the green wedge is not strong within the planning scheme and planning policy then developers may contribute to the loss open space and tree cover.
Environmental protection will need to be continued in the future and our significant landscapes and animal corridors need to be protected also. Our bushfire risk needs to be managed in a sensitive environmental way.
Trying to protect life with new buildings restrictions on clearing the surrounding area, is quite opposed to the reason why people live here...
The Council will continue to be pressured by State Government, under the influence of property developers, to relax the environmental conservation rules and they must resist that pressure for drastic change. At the same time, the Council must apply current environmental legislation with common-sense and flexibility on the grounds that no legislation can be written that can be applied in the same way in rural Nillumbik as it is applied in central Melbourne.
Lack of value in the environment . The limited vision of local government. The pressure on

the state government to not have a bipartisan agreement to protect the green wedges of Melbourne. Nilumbik being an area of Bushland, art and heritage
With the present regulations the value of all vacant land is already falling and nearly impossible to sell .With no value comes no investment comes no one left to care for the land /Making the regulatory requirements so difficult to comply may seem like a good idea to deter people to want to live in the green wedge .In fact the opposite is true .The green wedge needs the people to maintain it
See above – the imperative is to make the green wedge adjacent to the Mernda/Doreen growth corridor integrated into that community both socially and economically – the challenge is to amend regulatory requirements to support this!
Failure to adequately ensure retention of the Green Wedge in planning regulations. Potential for local government to support inappropriate land developments.
Possible rezoning to accommodate increased development and population, to the detriment of the “lungs of the city”
Keeping our green wedge protected
Q2
People move to the Green Wedge for a life style which is the envy of many, Let us strengthen our reputations – requiring compliance with best building practices, stop wholesale clearing of existing environment.
There is pressure from certain parts of the community to allow significant development of the green wedge counter to the current regulations. This should not be allowed and the long term protection of the green wedge should be pursued for the benefit of the environment and the community.
Abdication of responsibility to upholding environmental values by all levels of government
the Council watering down our Green Wedge protections
More developments = more rates = more regulatory instruments = reduced quality of life
The state government is always trying to make money out of greener areas - therefore it is always under threat
State Government will want to increase the size of the urban growth boundary in Nillumbik.
The instantaneous greed of governing powers who will only see dollar signs instead of trees. Their impulsive urge to sell off and develop for short term wealth will blind them to the long term implications of the loss of natural resources
Over regulation of property owners in efforts to protect against bushfires.
There have been recent improvements in some areas of local regulation. Further improvements must be developed collaboratively and incorporate the requirements of landowners who are essential to the success of the Green Wedge as it was set up in the beginning.
Subdivision and over development within the area of Christmas Hills, that is currently at the forefront with Melbourne Water divesting all of its land holdings.
I am worried that land is continuing to be sold, subdivided & more homes built. The township of Hurstbridge cannot hold much more in terms of development/population.
See my answers question 2 above
Nillumbik Shire will face many issues that are imposed by the State or Federal Governments. Some will be supported and some will be fought vigorously. Again a balanced and reasonable approach from all levels of Government will hopefully lead to good outcomes for all. There will never be enough money to fund all the projects that the residents of Nillumbik would like so a prioritised and balanced list needs to be drawn up.
We need to strengthen our environmental protection. We need to expand animal corridors and keep our significant landscape. If we lose our green-ness we impact the rest of Melbourne our we are part of Melbourne's 'lungs'.

need strong environmental controls to ensure sympathetic development
To continue from above. That hopefully the regulations are seen as working for so long over generations, and that you don't need to change them but respect them so that something is left for the generations to come.
I think that greedy people will see the green wedge as an opportunity to make money (via subdivision, building etc).
Ditto. There will be lobbying and pressure to weaken environmental protections.
I am concerned that there will be a gradual watering down of protections
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Government will demand Green Wedge land be surrendered for housing developments. 2. Current Green Wedge guidelines will be done away with and subdivision will ensue. 3. VicRoads will continue to call the shots and further destroy our roadsides with increasing amounts of non-negotiable roadside infrastructure. How is roadside mowing going to be possible in order to mitigate bushfires [caused by tossed lit cigarette butts or whatever] ? So would Nillumbik Shire address this outstandingly stupid approach taken by VicRoads?
Over regulated. Should be allowed to take responsibility on your own block
Limit the suburban spread. Keep the Green Wedge. Develop services information areas in already established townships and near train stations, transport. Develop further the Community Hubs rather than creating new ones. Perhaps assist Nillumbik financially.
This level of 3 government levels are still a major factor in any challenge.
Tough building regulations will limit the housing supply and push the rent goes higher.
Allowing sensible permits for development of much needed growth - without destroying the Green Wedge.
The challenge for Nillumbik will be to 'manage' the Green Wedge when 79% is private land but this Council has the opportunity through this review to find a moderate, middle ground where some consensus can be reached to restore justice and fairness. Changes do need to be made. Nor can Council continue to 'manage' private land by imposing increasingly stringent planning controls as in the past. The Nillumbik green wedge should not remain stagnant and 'locked up' from more people and more housing. That does not mean wall-to-wall housing as in Mernda & Doreen or multi unit developments as in Eltham but there is nothing wrong with building a home on small acreage. The social, environmental and economic consequences would be beneficial for the whole community.
Current regulations prohibit investment in business ventures. Allotment sizes create unmanageable management & cost issues.

**Please tell us about what social opportunities you think there are for
Nillumbik's Green Wedge in the future.**

Basically to not lock it up as some 1960s timewarp. People have to be able to afford rates and have decent services! Nillumbik has no social or affordable housing. Young residents can not live here.
Public transport would be used more by young people if better service
Providing artistic, creative and recreational businesses which use the Green Wedge as inspiration, e.g. cycling tracks, nature walks, treetop experiences (as in Hollybank, Tasmania), educational camps. Encouraging artistic venues (restaurants, quaint retail areas) to bring people into the area (like Olinda, Sassafras).
Destination for quality sporting & recreation opportunities allowing residents & tourists to enjoy Nillumbik instead of passing through it.
We really are the lungs of Melbourne. Health and well being stem from this.
There should be more opportunities to have more than one house on properties over 1 ha so family members can live nearby.
Increase tourism opportunities. Greater community connectivity via shared trails can bring greater financial opportunities if we have a more open mindset to local tourism opportunities.
Increase public transport around KG and other small towns.
Encourage sustainable development with sensible regulations
There is an opportunity to educate young people in the area the value of the GW and the necessity to maintain it, especially if it also extends to the Great Forest National Park. Residents should be encouraged to volunteer to help maintain public areas of the GW. Maybe a levy on rates, repayable in return for looking after public land.
The sense of community that has developed over many years in the Green Wedge is one of the factors that separates it from greater Melbourne. It's vital to preserve and hopefully expand this. In this age of widespread social isolation and loneliness, a community spirit will be much more useful for people's health and wellbeing than another shopping centre. Council should be looking after the people already here, not bringing more in for the sake of higher rates.
Encourage good business that improve lifestyle. Good bakery, more restaurants
Proper planned development will enable the rural character to be maintained while enabling a broader rates base. For example, Yarrambat could easily allow up to 1 hectare development to broadgully road allowing for more rates and for a proper return on the investment in Yan Yean road redevelopment.
People have strength if they come together
Our green wedge is so important as the push to expand our population grows. Th need for open spaces, clean air and the bush will become more vital. for us being so close to Melbourne makes it even more important
Community groups seem to be forming quite successfully by themselves .
Communities, small businesses Recreation for families.
I've never lived in a more cohesive community where the shared values for the love of the environment, the flora and fauna and human inhabitants can be used to bring everyone together. In an era where we are all worried about our planets future we have so many opportunities to bring people together around the green wedge.
New bus routes into the rural areas. Support rural lifestyle property owners Develop Kangaroo Ground Tip site into an indoor equestrian centre
Tourism, recreational hub
I link the four options into one, as they all make up "society". Council needs to work with the community to make it a better, safer place. This means

enhancing what it already here, not making radical changes - especially where these are aimed at benefiting the few. Think Community!
Recreation for all...
Tourism / grate place to live
Increased walkability, public spaces people are drawn to
There will ONLY be opportunities if we stop over development of the area, who wants to visit a place like the one you live in ! We need to keep what we have left of the charm & character in areas beyond Eltham (No hope of saving Eltham's charm & character, it's been destroyed over the past 10 years)
Stronger local fire guard and other social networks based on community rather than environmental activism - which we find nauseating and so will not engage with - are opportunities for the district into the future Virtual outreach services to reduce social isolation, improve health, mental health and wellbeing - this assumes that mobile and internet services are available - which in many parts of the green wedge is not the case
Embracing what we stand for.. our environment ... green wedge let's not forget how important that is to this world
Continue to support local communities through running events like On the hill in Panton Hill. Supporting healthy lifestyle choices through supporting a greener environment.
We could learn more about our local indigenous history. Manningham council seems way ahead on this!
More frequent & wide ranging bus services linked to train times. People live here for the greenery, the wildlife, the sense of space & this contributes to wellbeing & quality of life. Do not sacrifice this by building more & more, it will end up looking like everywhere else in Melbourne. Make the most of our environment - it is Nillumbik's unique selling point, the marketing point of difference & it must be kept & used wisely.
Bushwalking and other nature biased tourism environmental signs
It is a great place to meet and exercise. I would like this to be maintained so I can let my grandchildren experience the wide open spaces. People can learn a lot from being outside in natural environment. The river provides marvellous free opportunities for swimming, play and adventure.
There is always good ideas to explore and share from within Nillumbik, and Victoria, but also around the world. In the information age, we can take inspiration from anywhere around the world and adapt to our needs, what suits us.
Some pop up events or stores at peppers paddock
Building trails is a great way to improve health and wellbeing of a community. Providing opportunity for exercise that is not connected to a sports club or other club is preferred by many people. It is great for social activities and contemplation of nature and helps to reduce anxiety so endemic in our community.
We need to make this area more attractive to tourists - a Tourist information centre with a cafe would be useful for those visiting the area. Greater support for local business, eg those setting up a business catering for overseas tourists, eg visiting wine region. Significant community centres - large, attractive, spacious would bring community together. At the moment, lots of small fragmented meeting places. Invest in larger, modern facilities that will connect the community.
Social and community education on the benefits of conservation and sustainability. Engage indigenous elders to mentor and educate on the value of the land and its living environment.
opportunities for families to enjoy the environment through walks and parks and sites

designed for enjoyment :)
Transport and congestion without disturbing the landscape drastically
We have all we need here - it is but a short commute to swimming pools and basketball courts. I think that this unique area will begin to draw visitors but for it to be viable, we need to invest in educating young people on the uniqueness of this place and prettying up the townships. Perhaps communities within the Green Wedge could get together to help each other out with improving shop front appeal, keeping garden beds tidy, planting more shrubs and bushes - stop the concrete jungle. Social opportunities as mentioned above would be enough - if people want the bells and whistles, they can go elsewhere to find them.
I would like to see access for all abilities on the trails running through yarrambat , plenty and the other trails in nillumbik including access for horse riding so riders with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else. (look at how successful the rail trails are)
If population growth is properly managed & proper planning occurs, the area could be an exemplar of sustainability & quality of life, where the environment is valued and underpins human endeavours.
<p>*Recreation could involve more community members being involved in community activities of a cultural nature.</p> <p>1. There are very strong community groups involved in protecting and building the environment -these need continued encouragement by Council .</p> <p>2. Encouragement from council for Artists , musicians , story writers such as stay at Dunmoochin every year could be developed and assisted with acknowledgment of achievements and their presence in our community-some come from overseas& are amazed at such a great environment,..</p> <p>*Transport _: Buses for Panton Hill</p> <p>*Encouraging the Combatting of Climate Change by conserving water ,energy conservation solar panels , organics & tree planting</p> <p>*Healthy lifestyles exercise and foods encouraged</p> <p>* tourism encouraged</p> <p>* Continuing support for local festivals</p> <p>* kidsports, bike riding, music , providing plenty of scope for locals</p>
All of the energy and wealth of the whole shire is all spent fighting for and against the cutting down of burgen and gum trees. The Council spends an immense amount of money fighting land owners in favour of gum trees. It would be better for that issue to be resolved and for everyone to come together and focus on transportation, schools, education, parks, healthcare, etc.. So, there is a massive opportunity for improvement as much of this is neglected and underfunded.
Healthy spaces for families to play in.
Same questions again: infrastructure, safe exits
To grow as a cohesive community and to be a place that has a unique quality of life that can be both bushland and thriving community. To have genuine quality in the way we care for our environment that can influence and affect the rest of the city.
see under environmental
By protecting the green wedge families will be able to enjoy the bush
Green wedge can provide opportunities for families and social groups to come together. It also plays a vital role in lowering stress and enhancing wellbeing through access to nature.
Nillumbik will be a highly desirable place to live within Melbourne, should the green and open spaces remain.
Nuturing young people, families and valuing the aging population. Working together as an inclusive community.
Capacity of residents to live together and continue to preserve open space measures
Need more adventure parks to cater for more young families. Bike trails and anything that

gets young families together.
Educate the community about the Green Wedge and its vital role to not only the local community but Greater Melbourne as a whole.
Develop the shires natural assets such as the Yarra river. There are not many access points to the Yarra up stream of Warandyte.
It will provide a place to relax and get away from the hum drum of city life.
Creating more social networks
More social connectedness through activities and better facilities such as simple walking tracks away from the main town areas
Maintain Green wedge but improve transport and tourism will come. I found Hurstbrige when I was young and as a family we would catch the train from Thornbury for Picnics and Mushroom ing.
Recreation in green spaces, such as walking, cycling, horseriding. Perhaps epic multi-day walking trails with overnight stay opportunities. Hlgh density residential clusters in existing residential zones beside the Hurstbridge rail line, designed for retiring folks so they don't have to depart the shire as they age.
Because of the nature of the Green Wedge, outdoor activities of many kinds can easily be arranged, from family picnics, reunions, sporting events, musical events etc.
Create a sustainable user friendly public transport system; support community groups
An opportunity to increase ones well being by spending time in the Green Wedge.
The things that I like about living in the Green Wedge also attract millennials like me. The river, bush, creeks, Parks, open spaces etc. it's a great place to socialise, have festivals, attract suburbanites etc.
Local groups that lembrace the environmental and environmentally friendly economic initiatives should be supported by council and state govt as much as possible. A bus system should be planned for and gently rolled out with community consultation for ppl to navigate from their properties to major service hubs such as the town ships.
We can provide breathing space and access to the bush for Melburnians.
The bestoption for the Green Wedge would be to have a Green Shire Council, thoroughly Green (not Greens Party green) - a Council that is wholeheartedly committed to keep the Shire green, to repair the environment (regeneration) where it has fallen by the wayside, to stop this population growth and development for human purposes.
With all the new estates being built it will be imperative to have some flexible PT options to deliver people to schools and the the station. Also, the parking at stations should be 2 storey. There is a high risk that we will lose more green spaces if we continue to sprawl at ground level.
tourism is a huge opportunity (eco tourism especially). connection to nature, nature based therapies, camping close to the city, outdoor exercise including longer bike trails etc.
Improve what is there without destroying Green Wedge. Better Indigenous Cultural Heritage activities and signage and involvement of Indigenous people. See above re: improve bus service & connections.
There are many opportunities for social, cultural and recreational activities in the Shire. Better transport would make these activities easier to get and from. The Green Wedge could be promoted as a healthy place to live and, play and work.
The biggest value i see in the Green Wedge is the environmental factors on personal and communal wellbeing. (Being a peaceful retreat from the workplace/city/urban sprawl/school)
I believe the suggested social opportunities of family, recreation, community, cultural heritage, and health and wellbeing are all pertinent. Our health depends on the health of our environment and we can't erode that.
Much stronger preservation of reserves, much stronger links to cultural heritage (I like the Art

trail, where is history of indigineous people in this area and walking / bike trails, where is history of mudbricks and a walking / bike trail etc). Great opportunity to lift this and do so in a way that lifts peoples engagement.
More Education needed to help us live sustainably and become more connected to 'Land' --- not produce so much waste. More Education needed to help us understand how ecosystems work and to appreciate the benefits of the Wedge.
With big backyards and open spaces, our children grow up loving the outdoors. The bike tracks and parks are a key attraction and you only have to see how busy the bike tracks are and BBQ areas in parks are on weekends to see how social this area is
I think there are opportunities to raise the profile of the importance of protecting (and expanding) our Green Wedge areas of natural habitat. One example is to develop environmental support education programs as part of the local primary and secondary school curricula where students visit Green Wedge habitats and conduct projects on the importance of their preservation and expansion.
An example of how life should be. Life in the outdoors
Improving the health and well being of the community by maintaining and improving the strength of the Green Wedge. To educate the importance and values of the Green Wedge to all residents and particularly the young. To improve public transport to enable the Green Wedge to be appreciated more easily in a non-destructive manner.
A significant natural bush area close to Melbourne has obvious social and recreation opportunities for Melbournians. Also, it is a great opportunity for Nillumbik Council to create a green wedge that is the envy of all other outer Melbourne wedges. It is an opportunity to create a beautiful natural bush setting that encourages biodiversity while helping mitigate climate change. Let's do the right thing, not just that which makes the most money for the few.
Nillumbik's Green Wedge is already being seen as a special protection to our environment that is attractting visitors, businesses and settlers in ever-increasing numbers. However, I don't believe that the role of local artists, in interpreting our pristine landscape, is celebrated or promoted enough. Not only do we have the Green Wedge promoting the area, but the new 'Artisan Hills' brand could do more to promote the fact that our pristine environment has also attracted some of the country's finest and most celebrated artists.
Opportunity to address the challenges I have outlined above, especially public transport issues
Great horse riding area
My personal interest is in the creation of a shire-wide network of safe bicycle routes. I don't mean bike paths. Many roads in our Wedge are perfect as they are, but in between are major roads with quite a lot of traffic and not enough space for bikes. For example Eltham Yarra Glen Road, KG Road. And the road to Kinglake, while it has been much improved for cars, it is potentially a major recreational asset, limited at present by its lack of provision for bikes
Better infrastructure for riding horses safely without injury or death.
Great asset so close to Melb - has the possibility of retaining an authentic bush/natural/rural feel about it
Continue the good work developing shared user trails and mountain bike trails, with appropriate management controls and exclusion zones. This will bring many families and riding groups into the area regularly, supporting the local economy and appreciation of local environmental values, which will have flow-on benefits to support a thriving local community and Council.
Cooling, education, mental health, natural connection - all these to improve human health.
Transport, cultural diversity,

An opportunity to be innovative and harness the creativity of people living within Nillumbik
There will be the opportunity to provide better access for walking and cycling recreation for melbournians. There will hopefully opportunities to enhance and protect the biodiversity within the GW and improvements in wildlife habitat. There is so little of this around Melbourne that there is an opportunity to provide something precious for all of Melbourne
Maintaining the green wedge by fiercely protecting and preserving will allow it to continue to thrive as a unique and historic area. It can be enjoyed by families and all people for recreation, community and culture. Keep its uniqueness.
There are areas where facilities are available and being improved without destroying more of the environment. Walking and riding tracks are being improved.
As mentioned previously I think the provision of more public transport in the area would assist families and individuals to enjoy better recreation experiences, enable residents to travel more easily to work and education and thus cut down on the number of cars on the roads and reduce pollution.
Communication and shared visions
Given the changes that climate change will bring, I see the Green Wedge as being more important than ever!
Healthy to keep out natural areas free of development
Ability for landowners to build 2nd dwelling to assist with ageing in place & allowing younger people a foothold in area. Development of community projects to link residents with a mutual interest.
There is opportunity to foster an appreciation of nature and biodiversity in people using and living in the green wedge. I also think being around nature is good for people's mental health.
A beautiful place for families to live, gather and spend time together Create spaces for community to gather. Live music in communal spaces (such as is done in Eltham Town Square). Perhaps in the auditorium space at Alister Knox Park.
This is a wonderful area. Stop development. Protect what we have
The continuation of community groups and activist groups.
Getting a bus route in the rural areas of the wedge
It's important for families' and communities' health and wellbeing to remain connected to our flora and to ensure it's ongoing protection. Thus having access to both parklands and reserves is critical.
As Melbourne grows the green wedges will become increasingly important for residents and visitors from an environmental, recreational and cultural perspective. Nillumbik's green wedge is particularly significant with the Yarra River, Plenty River, national parks and reserves and bordering a significant growth area.
The quality of children coming from our region is strong, this is environmental impact.
Ensuring horses are allowed to remain on shared trails.
Due to the proximity to the Melbourne urban area, the Green Wedge will be a place where residents from other areas can come to enjoy the environment. Recreation areas for all manner of activities should be a focus for the Council, where they can recoup funds through fees and charges. Given that Nillumbik is preserved as a green wedge by State Legislation, though should be given to introduce a reimbursement from other Councils to assist with the management of the recreation areas for all Melburnians.
Local events and activities that celebrate community and promote Nillumbik as the place to be. To live and to visit.
Our effective fireguard group is an example of an effective type of community group for this semi-rural area. Families get together socially a couple of times a year and all manner of

contacts and friendships follow
It is vital to involve as many residents as possible in realistic discussion about the best uses or the unique environment we have and how to maintain it into the future.
Lead the way in alternative schooling.
To maintain a beautiful community in a time of rapid change.
There is the opportunity for the community to come together with the same understanding and value the Green Wedge that surrounds us. However there is a fear in the community that I hard to quell and is propagated by some.
All the above
Helping all people of all ages live here with support networks to be custodians fo the Green Wedge
Family, Community
Culturally sensitive recreation a facilities / activities. Infrastructure that supports the unique qualities of the Green Wedge.
> Creation / expansion of "community" - people wanting to be part of things, not isolated. > Closer ties with aboriginal connections o the G W. We can learn so much
More small businesses locally in the urban areas should be encouraged so there is more local work available for a wide range of people including young people.
1 - The natural environment is well known as a place of healing & wellbeing! 2 - Communities in the Green Wedge are a model for future housing communities and Australia and the world!
I feel in the future the community will be stronger
need better roads.
More Lacrosse.
well we can bring back the NYT. pppplllleeeeeaaassee!
With the amount of support in the green wedge already, it wouldn't be too much of a stretch to say that small businesses could grow in future.
social opportunities will be a big opportunity for the green wedge because over the years more people will visit this amazing place.
its a good comunity with good people
I think in the future the roads will be a lot better because they are already fixing some road problems.
The traffic/public transport can be late or sloe sometime.
I think the better opportunity's for Nillumbik is our community and togetherness.
It will be more natural when everything else is not and it is better for people's health to be near so much nature.
Hopefully, they can fix the transport problems. The train has had some difficulty lately, and it is delaying our travel plans. I am also hopeful that they can help fund things like in Hurstbridge the Nillumbik Youth Theatre is unable to perform a yearly tradition due to low funding. That is a very annoying and upsetting thing for a lot of people.
when the other suburbs start to grow, Nillumbik's green wedge will still have a spark of life, this could make people want to move here
I would like to have access to more movies out side in the stars,
To connect more with indigenous people and go out to see what their life is like.
I think there will be many opportunities for people to start families here.
I think since the green wedge is full of heritage, with the Wurundjeri people, the future has a lot install for us about our past and the land's heritage.
More community festivals and celebrations
As a place here families and friends can appreciate indigenous flora & fauna.

The opportunity to be the "goto Place" when you come to Melbourne for a visit. A place that has retained it's stunning landscape & rare flora & fauna.
Nillumbiks Green Wedge provides unique living experiences 25 km from Melbournes CBD. The opportunity to provide this in the future is also unique.
> Council can continue to protect our green wedge from development and our building on our treed environment > take opportunity to encourage care of environmental treasures by supporting community efforts such as Blossom Mob, which do good work.
A park and green wedge help both mental and physical health
Great place to raise a family and explore the native environment.
Better infrastructure
For it to provide a place for all melbournians to visit with close proximity
Better air quality, better waterways and natural open space is important for people to connect with nature and evidence has proven hay this has important health benefits, which leads to better social benefits and reduced cost in the health care systsem.
Local government should promote existing local business, arts and crafts underpinned by its history from Montsalvat and Dunmoochin. many locals are passionate environmentalists: local government should work with local with an emphasis on sustainable environmental values
promoting the well being impact of being close to the natural world
Connecting community with nature
It is well-stablished that that one of the best ways to keep healthy as one ages is through exercise. People who don't exercise place a greater burden on hospitals and health services which ends up being a substantial cost to the community. Bushwalking is a great way to exercise and there is a lot of scope for boosting participation of Nillumbik residents in this type of activity. Obviously, people don't need to belong to a club to enjoy bushwalking. Many families and individuals enjoy walking on trails in the parks and reserves on the weekend. However, with a greater investment in educating residents about the benefits of exercise participation in this type of activity could be considerably increased. What is very noticeable to those of us who are regular bushwalkers is that very few younger people are taking up bushwalking compared with the number that participated twenty or thirty years ago.
Please see below re health and well being.
As a green wedge Nullumbik has great opportunities for environmental education about our local biodiversity, environmental stewardship and the cultural heritage of Melbourne
more bike tracks and walking tracks. more sealed roads to minimise dust and erosion. better public transport using energy efficient non polluting vehicles. more facilities/opportunities for older people
More bike tracks and walking tracks. More sealed roads to minimise dust and erosion. Better public transport using energy efficient polluting vehicles. More facilities/opportunities for older people
People visit for Biodiversity and recreational opportunities
Family based Environmental tourism, field naturalist activities, environmental education, bush kindergartens
Plenty of opportunities to enjoy community family activities, and all social interaction! An art space would be useful to encourage artists young and old to create and show their work.
Saving our much loved cultural heritage
Sustainable living opportunities - allow hobby farms and provision for a proper second dwelling on the lot to allow - parents and grand parents to live on the property. (Not a granny flat). Or alternatively follow the Victorian Planning Scheme with lot sizes in parts of

the green wedge - think of revision of overlays.
enjoy bush
I think the greenwedge can be a beacon for sustainable living. I would love to see an ecovillage with a educational facility attached to teach people about sustainable building and living.
I believe we can find a balance for everyone in the community to feel they belong with the variety of events organise by disparate groups.
Cultural activities and art have flourished in the past and should continue to do so in the area. The wineries of the Yarra Valley offer attractions that can bring more people to the NGW to enjoy a wide variety of art and culture as well. Building on tourism will strengthen the finances of the area.
education of young people the importance of nature. protection of habitat of native species. protection of native flora and fauna. protection of wildlife corridor for native species
Demonstrate that a community can support others in a neighbourly and supportive manner.
People who use drugs all stick together as they are already breaking the law and protect the dealers. They should not be made to feel what they are doing is ok and council can play a big part in this by setting the right example and nurturing communities in the right direction especially if some community members want to head in the right direction but don't when they see and hear about council members partaking
There are plenty of places to live in Melbourne, lets leave nillumbik the way it is (green) and if people dont like remnant vegetation, they can go live somewhere else.
Green spaces good to mental and physical well-being
The Green Wedge will become even more important as a recreation resource for urbanites
There is an opportunity to look at developing different models for shared housing, for seniors housing, by modifying the planning rules to balance between large acreage and small shared clusters. Dual or multiple occupancy rather than subdivision.
Protecting the Green Wedge and making sound planning decisions will bring not only social benefits but also environmental benefits. What makes the Green Wedge special, particularly as Melbourne becomes more 'developed', will make it all the more unique - a real plus for the residents and for visitors. Whenever people ask me where I live, they say, "Oh, Eltham's such a beautiful place. You're so lucky!".
I think there is a huge eco tourism opportunities for Nillumbik, maybe keeping some of the better agricultural land as bigger parcels being abled to be managed by accredited land managers and they could subsidies there income with farm stay cabins or B&Bs on wineries, Making Nillumbik a place to stay for the weekend rather than come out for the day from Melbourne. This would be only allowed to parcel of land greater than 40 HA or 100 acres that can prove the have on farm income. eg, winery, beef production, Adventure camps, ETC.
These categorised boxes constrain the response, so I do not intend to adhere to them very tightly. We are primarily a dormitory suburb, and the infrastructure does not exist to move as many people who work outside the shire to move to and from their homes in a timely fashion. This is reason enough to stop increasing population density. As it is, for many people social opportunities are restricted to weekends because of time wasted commuting. That said, the Green Wedge provides a healthy context for social activities.
Community needs to be of utmost importance here. Not making ridiculous rules that make it impossible for people to adhere to. Most of us in the area I can see take pride in keeping the area in a safe state, whether that be from fires or human trouble. Taking care of properties in relation to the activities that the properties are used for whether it be horses, restaurants, agriculture has always been important as we like the biodiversity of the area.
Encourage local community activities to get more involved, to allow for more common understanding or rural life

Nillumbik could be a flagship for other localities by embracing a sustainable future.
Increasing use by residents by Council advertising the opportunities Protecting the local wildlife
More public transport to remove a whole lot of cars from the roads. Better use of reserves - maintain them and make them beautiful so people want to use them. Maintain infrastructure better so that it is appealing to users and charge less for community use.
Many activities are already well established and we don't need thousands of people moving in to 'make it more social'
Our current Social environment has somewhat of a "village" feel to it with a lot of engagement by the residents, I think this will become more important to Social health in the future
Keep the street appeal of the Hurstbridge township and it will continue to be a village people love to visit. The way it's going it really seems to be becoming just another suburb.
Improved accessibility through a reasonable arterial path network focusing on local access rather than recreational walking.
A healthy environment is good for the health of Victorians. Our hills and forests so close to Melbourne are attracting an increasing number of visitors. There is a convenient opportunity for visitors from neighbouring growth corridors to have a meal in one of our excellent cafes while enjoying the relaxation of country towns and roads.
encourage the recreational use of the area, keep roadside bike lanes clean so that riders are safer by using them,
There needs to be more consultation from the community, at all age levels.
As inner suburbs become more dense, families will seek recreational opportunities in the Green Wedge, like cycling, walking.
Just being a wonderful place to get to open space and natural environment
See above: only by permitting a small increase in occupation will the Green Wedge survive more than a couple of decades. An influx of families will revitalise what is fast becoming a retirement area.
Ramp up the development of biodiversity opportunities. We have a growing number of young people who would benefit from employment opportunities in this area.
Encouragement of passive recreation rather than structured recreation, such as walking trails and cycling trails- do not overinvest in sporting facilities.
By preserving what people are seeking here in the Green Wedge, like most treasures we can destroy what we love. There is a strong community spirit here in our Green Wedge eloquently expressed after the fires. Over population and development will dilute this sense of community and the loss of feeling like you belong is one of the issues for the more vulnerable in our communities. The community hubs are valuable and play a huge role in maintaining social connection. Maintaining funding for the community venues and activities in Nillumbik is part of a suite of public health tools we have and should support.
Provide a clean healthy environment for a community whose focus is sustainable living
The advantage right across the social spectrum of access to such a precious natural resource right at the city's edge. Loss of this resource would impact the whole of the city and not just Nillumbik.
Recreation
Quality tourism showing best practice in terms of residential living in an environmentally sensitive area. Indigenous cultural aspects could be developed.
Enjoyment of natural values in a low-impact way. Getting out into Nillumbik reserves to show residents their values. On a yearly basis..similar to the Open Studios scheme have an "Open Reserves" scheme..where people can visit the many different reserves in Nillumbik.

Botanists, cultural heritage experts, fauna experts etc could be available along with friends group members to lead short guided tours to showcase these reserves
Unless there is restriction on Local Govt. then opportunities in the GW will dwindle over time. When few people can articulate/understand what can and cannot be done within the GW area.
Limited due to high transport costs
It is already a wonderful and amazing place to live and work adn as long as the Green Wedge is protected,it will continue to remain so.
Family, recreation, community, cultural heritage, health and wellbeing will all be advantaged by the enhancement of the greenness of our GW. It is obvious that living in the GW town and country environment, given some improvement in the reach of public transport, has great benefit to community. It is a joy for us to live here. I believe that the current rift in the community can be healed.
The council should strongly support the values of the green wedge, and put effort into educating residents and visitors in its attributes and promoting them
Passive bush recreation
As the lungs of Melbourne and in close proximity providing a country/rural aspect Nillumbik will continue to provide passive recreational activities to all Melburnians, but only if we don't react to short term ideology that will kill the golden goose. The opportunity to build on local festivals and activities is enormous.
Opportunity (Need) Improve all areas listed in this category
Co-ordinated group rides, places to tie up, parking for floats
There is immense potential for lthe Green Wedge to look after our incredible area and the benefits will be great for everyone. People want to live in our amazing area because of what it offers, so we need to look after it and promote that as well.
This answer applies to all, if the green wedge is managed appropriately, and all attempts to maintain the current environment or improve the amount of parks and reserves then the area could become a major asset. If it is allowed to be developed for business and / or individual interests and community access is reduced then it will be a mojo lose in all four areas. It should be the intent of Nillumbik council to ensure the green wedge for this, but more importantly future generations.
The possibilty of building an Aged Care / supported living facility in our community
Carefully manage to maintain our idyllic environment / lifestyle. No change for the sake of change, if it ain't broke don't fix it. Support or local sporting clubs to keep our children active and socially engaged in a tactile way rather than just having online social engagement
Keep providing bike tracks, support pony clubs, and other youth infrastructure. Transport needs to be supported also, although it has improved over the last few years.
recreational/health and wellbeing opportunities for people to experience the beautiful open spaces - while treading lightly.
Maybe more walking trails for health and wellbeing. There should be Education for land owners on how to look after the land and education for real estate agents and prospective buyers. Too many times have I heard the remark, it's my land and I will do what I like on it! However, if the neighbour develops a motor cross track or builds a shed so big that it blocks out the sun they then want the council to stop it! Everyone must be educated about the regulations and the regulations must be enforced for the benefit of all.
Make Nillumbik Shire the shared trails capital of the country - fantastic tourism opprtunity so close to Melbourne's doorstep.
Great social atmosphere as it is.
Sense of belonging to a close knit communitiy without the pressure of over population
There are numerous social, health & wellbeing benefits to maintaining the Green Wedge so that the local and further afield community can access it and enjoy what it has to offer. Even

those who don't visit may benefit from the Green Wedge continuing to be the 'lungs of Melbourne'.
If we opened up some trails for horse riding and joined them up better like the mountain bike trails; include some yards, hitching rails, even camping areas, we'd encourage more social activities and tourism which would also help some of the local stores, wineries and air bnbs
The smaller communities offer a safe place to raise children. The importance of having green spaces, peace and quite benefits mental health and wellbeing of, families, the strong community spirit garnered through working together. We love where we live because of the trees. Our treed urban areas such as Eltham are our extension of the Green Wedge, and indigenous vegetation should be protected all over Nillumbik. Excellent environmental outcomes are also positively linked to improved human health and well-being, community, cultural heritage, recreation, tourism, business development.
The ability to have access to wonderful green space.
Council supporting a more cohesive community by council officer being objective and non bias and briefing papers being based on evidence.
Not only does the green wedge provide fresh air for the city, but also good recreational possibilities within easy reach for all Melbournians.
People that live here are a very enterprising group and there's always something that can be done to get around problems
There are a number of beautiful pubic spaces available for the community. I think that recently there has been more engagement with the local community and people are willing to be involved in protecting our environment.... this engagement will create a united, strong community.
Leave well alone
The opportunity for more people to access outer Nillumbik to learn about and experience the land.
Horse riding clubs enable like minded people to enjoy their time in the Green Wedge and by participating we encourage all riders to look after the environment.
Develop Adventure park to be a "destination park" like Hays Paddock or Wombat Bend,
It could be developed into a health and wellbeing capital of Melbourne and Australia.....
Keep it safe. It is special and a one off opportunity to add our weight to the environmental protections that we need on this planet. This is a chance were we, in our little corner say, no; we will not accept this hotel here because it will take out this stand of yellow box gums and they are too important to the animals the symbiotic relationships in place here. We have a chance to protect things and the only way to do that is leave them alone.
To embrace and maintain its character: mudbrick structures, natural environments and cultural events.
Things should mostly stay the same as this is how we like it.
Parking access at eltham station needs to be dramatically improved. Parking at shops is extremely difficult these days on any day and parking fines are ridiculous. With one road in and out we need to stop residential development that the township cannot sustain safely.
Greater recreation opportunities for those living in greater metro areas
More promotion of the magnificent shared trails infrastructure on Melbourne's doorstep.
Further improving community ties
Preserve open spaces so people can come and socially enjoy from surrounding areas that are increasingly becoming over developed.
Transport options to be improved for outlying townships and areas.
Expanding Nillumbiks reputation for having unique architecture, a strong artists community & lots of bushland & bushy streets & gardens...
The Green Wedge could be preserved for future generations as a shining example of

Austalian nature at its best.
People learning about the rich history - our indigenous people that used to kive here - we can create arts, festivals, markets, foods, play... all thigs that enhance health and wellbeing for ALL people - not just a handful of people because they are 'landowners'.
I think that the small communities that are part of the green wedge have the unique capacity to thrive with work in the city and suburbs providing added resources to the local communities. Their size provide unique opportunities for the growth of shared experience and close social connections.
Retaining the existing outstanding rural landscape values of the green wedge and its contribution to our amenity and quality of life in the Shire. Provide for low impact recreational activities.
Improve off road riding trails for horse riding - many ratepayers are horse riders and use trails in the shire. Increasing off-road trails and continued access to these trails for horse riders is essential.
As one of Melbourne's lungs it will increasingly be called upon by visitors, resident or from overseas. The more sensitively the Wedge is cared for, the more precious the resource.
Opportunity to create a vibrant community. Opportunity to improve roads and public transport
The sense of feeling part of a great community with a long history both indigenous and Environmental diversity (St Andrews)
The current system is not going to ensure protection of the GW into the future. It is time to think outside the square. A consideration of how to attract residents and businesses to the area that value the importance of the GW is vital.
There is an opportunity for further development along the rail corridor. With the rail line, the sewer, gas and mains water along the Elatham to Hurthbridge line, its seems odd that sensitive development isnt fast tracked for more housing and sharing the rates bill around a bigger rate base.
Better public transport. Small communities with a sense of pride in their community and similar values provide for healthy people, emotionally and physically. Cultural heritage awareness.
We must also consult with the traditional custodians of the land and make sure we honour their recommendations. The health and wellbeing benefits of having access to the natural environment is well-established. Maintaining protection of the GW will enable this to continue in an area that is close by for many many people.
'- Stop growth mania - Stop population growth - Maintain community spirit - Educate young and old about the environmental benefits of the region - Preserve cultural heritage, remain rural, don't become urban
don't over develop it and the people living here will have a good quality of life
Bush storytimes for families. "Adopt a townie" - so a Green Wedge resident can show a town person what is special about where they live.
To demonstrate to the broader Victorian and national community that our unique environment is precious and presents an alternative to living in highly urbanised environments; this is psychologically enriching
There are important opportunities to engage the wider community beyond Nillumbik in the Shire without seeing massive developments. A contemporary art gallery with an innovative arts and cultural program would bring incredible value to the Shire. A re-shake of the arts and cultural team to bring in truly creative and innovative arts workers and artists. Supporting the Laughing Waters proposal by arts group Residency Projects.
The maintenance of its rural aspect. It is a valuable area because it is not a high density area. It has very high tourism value because of this.
Preservation of the green wedge can contribute to all the open space, native veg,

biodiversity values that have proven health and social cohesion benefits for humans. Opportunity for Nillumbik to be at the forefront of urban planning and design in terms of human settlements and nature.
Supportive neighborhoods if environmental values are maintained.....what we have on offer here meets peoples needs well I believe.
Nillumbik's Green Wedge needs to remain the Lungs of Melbourne. The public areas are and will continue to be needed for an ever expanding population as part of their health and wellbeing.
Fantastic model for communities to flourish within a conservation area, which protects and preserves this area for all
The Gawa Trail is an excellent example of social and educational experience. With support from Local Wurrundjeree the food trail is a wonderful learning experience for children and adults.
Health and well being are best served in a health environment, although bus transport and old age facilities need improvement.
Plenty of scope for families to grow in this beautiful environment. Fresh air and no pollution.
Be willing to share our beautiful area with people from the built up city - make them welcome and get them to understand how important it is to protect it, so that they become advocates on our behalf for helping to preserve the Green Wedge.
many opportunities. become a leader in the declining open space urban living - a great contrast to the apartment led inner city living. become a leader in inter generational living - allow the granny flats create working interface hubs - instead of travelling to work outside of Nillumbik - work from a hub where there is high speed internet, child care etc. become a leader in creating employment for young people - a social issue of greater importance than climate change or preserving green wedge boundaries
To develop a synergy between the green wedge and the adjacent population in the Mernda/Doreen growth corridor, so they are able to access the green wedge to enrich their social and cultural amenity and to support engagement between co-located populations
Development of Community Centres/ Hubs. Support for voluntary organisations.
Same as question three.
Keep our communities strong and connected
More about our cultural heritage, particularly the part the indigenous population played in this area
Setting an example for living in harmony with and enhancing the existing environment and combatting climate change; working more closely with Wurundjeri people.
There's no doubt that green & trees draw people & families to enjoy. Managed well will encourage green sensitive families more able to manage
Close communities
Nillumbik has some of the strongest communities in Australia. We have people moving to the area just to be involved in our outstanding community groups. They need to be invested in. Fun fact. A number of our groups advise other organizations world wide on how to run successfully.
A green wedge provides a much healthier environment to live in and to educate people about the importance of nature in all aspects of living
Will hopefully remain as one of the few remaining green spaces (ie, the lungs) of Melbourne, providing the opportunity for recreation, amenity and peace for urban residents and visitors.
There are significant social benefits in a collaboratively managed Green Wedge that considers the needs of its residents; small and large landholders alike recognise the benefits of maintaining a safe and diverse environment. We need to encourage the use of public

spaces and bring much-needed visitors to the region year-round.
A focus on ventures such as bush walking, horse riding, bike riding, and agriculture such as wineries and orchards.
It is a wonderful place to live & raise children & this will continue I'm sure. Festivals & events that bring the community together are great.
We are all part of a larger whole and guardians. As with the global refugees problem, it should not be a case of borders or (property) boundaries; but rather the Green Wedge is a collective responsibility - for the long term, for all of Melbourne, for future generations, for the larger good, not for short term self interests.
There are some passionate and committed groups in many townships in the Green Wedge. People come together for a variety of reasons and spend countless hours voluntarily working for the betterment of their communities. Council can and does support many of these groups which helps promote a cohesive and supportive community which helps create a healthy community.
I approve of the efforts to turn the front of the stores towards the pedestrian square away from the main road in Eltham town. Why does the shopping area on the northern side of Diamond Creek look so ugly.
We will be a place to visit because we are green while other shires are all houses. This will help with tourism and recreation.
This is a wonderful area for family outings, active pursuits, recharging by connecting with nature. community centres for activities. Get people involved in revegetation etc Arts communities
It already is what it is, absolutely beautiful. People come to the local markets, the townships, why does anything need to change?
If we manage to save and preserve what we have now, then we will have what no other local suburban council has: we will have space and a natural environment. Anyone can build buildings, but it is very hard to recapture the natural environment once it has gone. Green spaces make for a healthy environment for people.
I suspect that a lot more could be done to sharpen awareness of cultural heritage. Lots more could be done to make cycling easier - e.g. bike paths.
A beautiful place to visit, live and work in.
There are any number of examples around the world that have clearly established the cultural benefits of 'Green Wedges' and this research/concept was well established over 200 year ago. Central Park in New York City is one of the best examples of where preservation of green space is critical to the functioning of a major city. Yes, this land had a value related to real estate and could well have been developed into residential development but has been clearly shown, the value as green space far outweighs the short-term financial benefits that might have been accrued
I am a committee member at Eltham Childcare CoOp. We have just initiated a series of nature weeks. This is one example of what our environment offers us the chance to do
Nillumbik is a great place for people in neighbouring municipalities to visit. Having a rural/ bush setting so close to the city is a great asset to Melbourne.
Limit the number of private schools because they do not pay rates. Society is currently pathetic with so many people gazing at their stupid mobile devices so what social opportunities other counselling will be necessary?
More Trails for walking and riding. access to the River is almost non-existent. trails beside this and access for Kayaks and swimming would enhance the recreation
Nillumbik has a powerful opportunity to be a leader in innovation and ethical living where humans can respectfully co-habit with other creatures in a healthy biodiverse environment. All of the points that have been sectioned into environment /economic/social/regulatory are linked and not separate concepts. One depends on another. The community and its

economy could flourish - from sustainable and regenerative agriculture that learns from ancient indigenous systems and improves health and vitality of people, land, waterways and animals, to progressive educational and cultural enterprise.
There are probably opportunities for further develop the knowledge of, and communication about the traditional owners and the places that were special to them. The further enhancement of the open studios program, the signage for areas of cultural/historical importance, especially along walking tracks, would also be of benefit. Finally, the development of an open area amphitheatre, perhaps at the site of the old Eltham Shire offices, would provide a valuable, but affordable venue for cultural events.
Cultural and tourism
Keep the heritage of protection that has been enacted for all people to enjoy.
Bush walks, camping, general appreciation of the natural environment. Encourage / offer studies (U3LA, Living Learning Centres) re: indigenous plants, animals. Native plant expos, plantings of indigenous flora. Ban the use of damaging pesticides
Huge opportunities in the Green Wedge for tourism and growth as long as infrastructure is built or supplied to cope with this.
Because of the mature facilities, it attracts more people to move in this are, and more business opportunities.
Second dwellings should be permitted to allow for older residents to stay on their properties and housing affordability for younger family members. Also need accommodation for visitors to the Green Wedge. Need camping grounds / caravan parks
Increase the amount of available housing with a range of land sizes to make it more affordable to keep families together. Allow owners of unviable land to subdivide into smaller lot sizes which are easier to manage. Council should do more to assist landowners with the culling of feral and invasive species.
As our population ages, aged care facilities allowing ageing in place enable elderly to continue to live in Nillumbik among family & friends. Nillumbik is well served with infrastructure notably railway services to Hurstbridge, a completed Ring Road will be welcomed. Serious consideration to create additional employment in Nillumbik will be also welcomed. An additional Yarra River crossing is long overdue as development surrounding Nillumbik has made traffic flow a major problem throughout the shire. Realistic boundaries & land uses between urban & rural zones will reduce conflict between neighbours & the ongoing harassment of rural landowners.

Please tell us about what environmental opportunities you think there are for Nillumbik's Green Wedge in the future.

We need to look at relaxing zonings. BE CREATIVE. Artist housing, sustainable villages with little impact on the environment. But only in areas with good public transport.
Tourism mainly - bushwalking tours, picnics etc. There are many endangered species in the area. Our Landcare group has worked to protect orchid habitat and provide nesting boxes for a range of animals who are affected by human interference in their habitat. The more people living in this area, the greater the impact on local flora and fauna. Not every-one wants to turn most of their property into a sanctuary as we have.
Promote areas healthy lifestyle; utilise river more for recreation- canoes, kayaks, swimming holes/beach
The unique nature of our shire, so close to the CBD must be protected and enhanced at all costs. The slow creep of development and the slow introduction of people into the shire who think they live in Doncaster or Templestowe is eroding the unique environmental values of this shire (and the very reason they come here in the first place). A truly progressive Council and leadership in the Nillumbik bureaucracy would assist greatly the idea of environmental focus at the forefront.
If Victoria was to acknowledge the importance of the Green Wedges it could improve both the planning and management arrangements.
In a world of decreasing natural environments, this is a tourism and educational attraction. We need to work with it, not degrade it.
Keep it as it is. That's why we all live here
Bio-diversity and the encouragement of rare and endangered species could be a showcase for nearby city folk.
Keep the environment pristine and the environment will return the favour by helping with climate change.
There needs to be a reduction in undergrowth in areas around townships to safeguard against bushfire. Allow landowners to remove undergrowth on their properties.
Work with land owners so as to promote useable healthy properties.
Protect what we have and grow our environmental assets for the future
Opportunity to maintain the last unique environmental space in Melbourne as long as there is not too much housing and business development
Tourism is the future, because of the environmental aspects of this area.
More controlled slow burns. Recycling depots to be more accessible and for more articles
Far more emphasis in educating residents about the environmental value of the GW, particularly for newcomers and those potentially wishing to subdivide their land. Clear guidelines and regulatory requirements should be circulated to all - discontent seems to come mostly for those who see their land as a potential goldmine just waiting to be turned into a Laurimar type estate. A "hard edge" to the GW is essential with no subdivision by stealth.
In a city as spread out as Melbourne, we need all the green space we can get. State and local governments must put laws and regulations in place that irrevocably protect the Green Wedges in Melbourne. With every change of government at every level, we are faced with increasing pressure on the Green Wedge to develop it into another bland suburb - people having to live cheek by jowl on blocks that make postage stamps look big. More roads cutting wildlife off from its habitual corridors, disturbing the reproductive cycle, nesting sites etc, food sources. If the Green Wedge were protected by law and Council concentrated on looking after it, Nillumbik could become a haven not just for flora and fauna, but provide mental respite for its inhabitants. People choose to live here, so don't expect it to have all the bells and whistles (and noise, pollution, overcrowding, and hectares of cement) that an inner

city suburb has. No-one is forced to live here. Council should stand up for the Wedge, not destroy it via "death by a thousand cuts".
further inappropriate development
Leave as much bush and nature as possible
Same as above. We are a unique part of Melbourne.
Opening up development will encourage people to invest in their blocks - engaged landowners will ultimately deliver environmental and economic benefits.
Establishment of wildlife corridors. Get rid of feral animals. Recognise flexibility in natural regrowth. Landcare and similar groups could look at planting for a hotter, dryer climate .
We need to build on the diverse environment we have. We have to use all of the fantastic people in our community who care and give their time for free to keep Nillumbik the unique and special place it is today.
Development of shared use recreational trails (including horse riding) Encourage landowners to maintain the bush areas of their properties to reduce risk of bushfire
Need to arrange to let people engage with the environment through walking/cycling tracks BUT make sure there are opportunities also for people who find walking difficult
Open landscape will soon be a precious commodity for city dwellers, they will need somewhere reasonably close to the city to recuperate. If done well cafes, restaurants, trail rides canoeing camping could flourish, but would have to be carefully managed to be sustained
The need to release more land for subdivision and attract more people to the area - however, not in current medium density areas - rather outlying areas of St Andrews, Christmas Hills, Arthurs Creek.
Continue to protect and preserve our unique and threatened environment through careful planning whilst still encouraging the varied needs of the broad community.
Uniquely placed to maintain a good balance and to be a leader in clean energy and water.
Remain as a green lung for the increasingly high density suburbs nearby, sanctuary of biodiversity for the region.
We can attract more tourism by providing open spaces, community towns & fresh air for inner city/suburban dwellers to visit on day trips.
Opening up the rest of the aqueduct trail and the trails at the base of sugarloaf to provide more opportunities for bushwalking, riding and horse riding - this requires significant investment in car parking - as there is not any at present Another wildlife rescue operation would make another good asset to the area - perhaps down at the Bend of Islands
Look after those who provide 'the green wedge' that Nillumbik purports. We who live and farm in rural Nillumbik are its Green Wedge
If we leave it for the greens to run it will ultimately be so unsafe that no one would want to live there Have a look at what has happened to bend of isles ,the value has dropped to half and some property's has not sold after a year in the market
We can be an example for others to show how urban and semi rural living can work. We can show that growth is not the most important thing- that sustainable living is possible, healing and important for a well balanced community and environment
Conservation of the natural environment.
The beauty of the area will continue to support biodiversity if we protect it, the beautiful area is what people come to visit and this is why so many of us choose to live here
We could persuade Melbourne Water to return the land it has at Sugar Loaf back to being part of the surrounding bush. We can all do some Bush regeneration on our own blocks. Help/advice from council to ramp up.
We are a green wedge and we need to protect and enhance our environmental efforts

Keep people from destroying native habitats for there hobby farm
We are the lungs of Melbourne. As other areas lose their vegetation to development ours becomes more and more precious. The environmental benefits of a natural trees green environment are obvious aren't they?
Nillumbik's environmental credentials were previously very good. We can do better, we can inspire residents to engage and do their bit, to play their part to protect this beautiful part of the world, after all, it's why they all live here.
Enhance biodiversity , not just maintain it .
Bring back the platypus to watery gully. Share night walks with visitors who catch the train up
Education about Nillumbik's unique value as a Green Wedge Shire should be mandatory for all newcomers and Council literature should always stress what a privilege it is to live in the Green Wedge. Rate discounts for those who carry out weed reduction and sound land management could be introduced. Low key eco tourism could emphasize the environmental assets we have.
I think that there is a lot of appreciation of the natural beauty in the area. There needs to a balance between farming land (pasture and vineries) and native bush. The walking/horse trails are a wonderful way of enjoying the bush and experiencing nature. I believe it is important for young people to sometimes get away from screens and see nature and animals first hand, so that will see a value of keeping these things in good shape.
There's a huge opportunity for Nillumbik to mix nature conservation with tourism, tree-change living and economic activity. Council appears hell bent on development at all costs though.
As there are fewer and fewer places like it on the fringes of Melbourne it could be a boon for tourism and related business
By adopting a vision for environmental "best practice" we can be a showcase of environmental survival
THE ONLY ENVIRONMENTAL OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE FOR THE GREEN WEDGE, IS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT IT!!!
preservation & restoration in balance with other community needs. Opportunity to educate re the value of all living things
<p>The Biodiversity Projects supported by Council have been very successful with the discovery of Rare orchids, grasses, Phascogals , species of frogs,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Plenty of volunteers put in time and effort --Nesting boxes are supplied for bats, phascogals, Possums, tiles for Dunnarts-these should all be continued . * Fencing for rare orchids has been put up to protect them * Further spraying of blackberries and replantings of Plants along creeks * The removal of weeds-bluebell creeper , sweet pittosporum and Cootamundra is a constant task * the treating of wombats for mange is also a task that has been successful but needs to continue * the education of people about the importance of maintaining species in our land * education about all the native bees here (Even bees with blue stripes exist here) * we made hotels for bees to attract them to vegetable gardens for pollination * We made hotels for Lady birds in our gardens which are crucial also
The opportunities are around nurturing the ecology of the green wedge to enhance the richness of the green wedge environment.
There will be clean air to breath, breathing is very important
Keeping that relative feeling of living in the bush.
Leaders in biodiversity management.
Water, gas supplies. Safe multiple exits in case of fire

More bush lands! A community apple/fruit orchard to celebrate the past history around the allwood house!
The environmental opportunities for the Green Wedge should be what was always intended. It is well documented. The areas that have environmental overlays should be maintained in the way that was envisaged when they were put in place. Too often, people move to an intact bush block, with a healthy biodiversity, and proceed to destroy it. It should be made clear to people choosing to move to Nillumbik's Green Wedge that this is not an option. If their life style requires cleared land, then they should by a cleared block.
To increase awareness of biodiversity and thoughtful practice through funding and education.
To further encourage biodiversity and respond appropriately to climate change and bushfire issues. Nillumbik (parts of it) could become an iconic example of maintaining and developing these. How many suburban areas have antechinus and dunnarts? Such environmental outcomes can boost a sense of community, wellbeing, and health.
Protecting our native fauna and flora is healthy on all levels
Provision of natural bushland provides habitat for native and especially endangered animals flora and fauna.
Many, the tree canopies. Providing opportunities for walking, biking, horse riding, so many outdoor activities. It's about balancing activity in conjunction with the environmental considerations, not all or nothing philosophy.
Need more parks with playgrounds and picnic areas . Need to back the Yeomans save the old gums and accept the land as a park at the Doreen roundabout.
With even more of a focus on native conservation, and revegetation, I think the Green Wedge could become a shining example of Aussie conservation.
If the Green Wedge is protected then the environment will be protected.
allowances to prevent the future development in the green wedge
Keeping bush and encouraging bio diversity. Something you can no longer get in the suburbs
This is a rare area. Close to both the city and the bush. Few areas, so close to the city, have such good quality remnant habitat. This is an environmental asset as well as learning and educational opportunity for future generations
All of the above.
To strengthen laws to protect what little is left in biodiversity and stronger laws to protect threatened species. Encourage land owners to improve biodiversity and better incentives to deal with pest plant and animals
Great opportunities to preserve our unique landscape and enhance it. We live in a magical place but it would be a shame to lose it to unsympathetic development
We all need to make sure we do not destroy a unique and special part of Melbourne and the world.
Breathing space for Melbourne's increasingly high-density city. We can't afford to keep nibbling at the green wedge or the already challenged environmental bio-diversity will be further compromised and unsustainable. Restrict introduction of non-native flora and fauna to promote sustainable native bio-diversity. (no reduction of indigenous flora, no acres of vineyards.) I have lived in England with higher populations than Melbourne; where town planning restricts towns and villages merging into megacities with commuters travelling for 2 hours across unrelieved suburbia to get to work or visit friends. Planners leave the farms and the woods and the industry to provide places for the environment alongside employment and recreation.
The biodiversity in the shire is I think about #4 in Australia (after Barrier reef, south-western Australia, and one other?). This might open showcasing opportunities, or environmental

education opportunities.
Nillumbik has the opportunity to cement its place in Victoria as the best and most accessible place to come to in Melbourne to experience and enjoy our unique environment, provided it does not compromise this by disposing of open spaces for building programs.
Look at all these issues holistically and accept that by while change is inevitable we need to be very mindful of the interconnections and that every action has a resulting reaction. More education about about how clearing for bushfire 'protection' not only gives people a false sense of safety but will only speed up climate change and result in fiercer fires in the future. Promote the natural values of our special Green Wedge and promote the ecosystem services its provides to us all.
If the GW is maintained properly it will help biodiversity and reduce bush fire risk.
The green wedge will help to preserve remnant natural landscape and enable biodiversity in the future - as long as it is protected.
Nature based tourism in Melbourne's doorstep? Do I really need to spell it out? Clean river water quality, plenty of space for recreation opportunities, small holiday cottages (not massive hotel developments) etc.
Educating...definitely need a plan to eradicate brown miner birds (introduced), plant trees, shrubs to attract native birds.
Unlike Councils current wording, the environment should be the lead factor when change or developement is considered. It is not an equal value - it is the primary value upon which all other values should rest. Ppl come here knowing about fire - it is a risk they take in purchase. They should accept this risk and enjoy their custodial time. Council should always apply this hierarchy to considerations within the Green Wedge.
The green wedges provide fresh air, clear lines of sight and psychological wellness,
Preserving the GW substantially as it is and educating the people living in the Shire as to its multifarious value. This does not mean there should be no development or tourism, only that it be very carefully targeted. We need to stop the whittling away of the edges of the GW, which some aspiring developers have been engaging in for years.
A green oasis tourism destination: short breaks from the city where people can 'commune with nature' and 'recharge batteries'
Greater protection of Green Wedge in perpetuity so that we don't have to revisit this fight against incremental environmental degradation every time a council is voted in or out
Nillumbik could be a leader in environmental conservation and sustainability instead of just another urban sprawl if it paid more attention to and protected its natural assets.
see above
A strange question! The most important requirement of the Green Wedge is to maintain a strong protective legislated regime to ensure it is not compromised by a "death of a thousand cuts". The "opportunity" is to continue to promote the values of the Green Wedge, to promote biodiversity, to further enhance and better manage native bushland areas.
PLEASE do not allow further encroachment of residential fencing under the Transmission Wires! This is a valuable eco-corridor for wildlife. Promote regular "Friends" type activities to combat littering, reduce weed infestation etc. Once per year on "clean up Australia" day is insufficient
enhance reputation as a conservation shire by protecting key areas and educating the wider community on their benefits and importance to the whole of Melbourne.
Invest in maintaining the natural environment in Nillumbik's Green Wedge through reserves, conservation parks and planning regulations.
Consult with and follow recommendations of local environmental and biodiversity experts.
Huge opportunities for halting the destruction of native bush and habitat, and for protecting our wildlife. This could be place for research and "best practice" in conservation. We could increase our areas of native bush rather than reducing it. We could promote "residential

conservation" and have people who were knowledgeable and proud of our environment.
I think there are immense opportunities including, but not only: Biodiversity, climate change, and preserving our spectacular landscape.
Preserve the reserves. Have more guidance around importance of biodiversity etc
With such a unique and precious environment, we need to ensure protection of the biodiversity . We recently had 2 very large native cat fish die in our creek. They are an endangered species in some parts. The EPA tested the water but found nothing. We suspect contaminated water from upstream . What restrictions are there for our precious waterways?
Good support needed for volunteer groups who are caring for the environment. Citizen Science projects could increase our understanding of species' requirements and help to prevent extinctions.
I would like to see a bike track between diamond creek and hurstbridge so can connect these 2 suburbs and be able to ride with kids from Eltham to hurstbridge
Enhance the green Wedge, build on it don't decimate it.
To endeavour to make the Green Wedge and associated townships environmentally sustainable. This would include enforcing building standards and upgrading them where possible, to encouraging energy efficiency and solar electricity production. To prevent any destruction of the environment and enable biodiversity to increase. To trial aboriginal fire cleaning techniques and teach others of how it works.
To address the challenges mentioned above - to protect the environment even when it is difficult to do so, be brave enough to resist the approaches of developers and at least modify their actions so that the Green Wedge survives
I think the green wedge will be chipped away at the edges from all users
Preserve the green wedge from development to maintain biodiversity.
Opportunities to protect the land and biodiversity, and maintain the wildlife corridor for future generations to enjoy.
Large areas of public land which is not used for sport but is currently mowed or slashed could be managed for improvement in biodiversity and carbon storage. Riparian areas need more revegetation works to maximise habitat and wildlife corridor effect of these areas. Water sensitive urban design should be a requirement of all new infrastructure and any new developments. Increased use of nest boxes and retention of old and dead trees for habitat. Increased area of vegetation in private properties. Improvement in biodiversity in private properties. Restrictions on canopy clearing in properties and township areas. Reduction in smoke by advocating for cessation of logging burns which impact on our air. Vegetation excess should be removed as green waste, not burnt. Prescribed burns should not be used in the Nillumbik area due to health hazard of high particulate levels caused - any vegetation concerns can be addressed by modification of vegetation to improve health and moisture levels of vegetation and landscaping modifications near houses.
A large verge with a condoned off shared pathway wide enough to include horses.
Greater linkages in parks and reserves, working with private landholders to improve habitats and restore ecol function
Nillumbik should protect as much of its green spaces as possible and continue to buy more land (not sell land) to increase its overall green footprint. The pressures from climate change and urbanisation will mean that open spaces and green areas will become so much more valuable into the future. Nillumbik should consider setting up a Natural Heritage Trust in their municipality to help restore and conserve their key environmental and natural resources and receive additional funding for environmental activities. Council can set up an external board to manage and run this trust and allocate budget to start buying land and delivering projects. Conservation is an important value and should be a key area for the Council to focus on. The Council should seek external funding from Federal and State Governments to help manage and protect the environment into the future and setting up a trust will assist in

getting extra funding. This will also help with the pressures of reduced funding and not to over commit and stretch themselves too much in spending.
Urban cooling, maintaining habitat for threatened species, nature education.
Preservation in a developing world
Ensure any new developments are as environmentally friendly as possible (ie on site water treatment, green roofs, solar power etc). Opportunities to improve local environment through weed removal, increased riparian vegetation planting, better servicing of recycling/compositing etc.
Strong management of urban boundaries and planning regulations to ensure there isn't gradual creep of urban environment. Maximise tourism through development of key paths and thoroughfares to encourage greater outdoor participation. A managed landscape does not mean it has to revert to some preconception of pre settlement.
See above
Safety for people in a fire risk area is important, particularly early warnings and bridge efforts. The green wedge helps climate change if it stays green. It can be a great area to promote the natural environment and biodiversity.
We need our Green Wedge to act as a buffer zone for the developed areas. People need to be able to have the opportunity to breathe fresh air, to walk along a bush track, to admire a fabulous view or piece of bushland.
Through planning regulation and management the Green wedge can be maintained as a natural space.
The main environmental opportunities include the tourism opportunities associated with the current zoning overlays which will retain the small agricultural holdings and extensive areas of natural bushland.
Communication and shared visions
The environmental wonders of the NGW can be better appreciated by locals and Melburnians more generally IF there were greater efforts to improve education programs about the NGW's plants and animals and ecological values.
Environmental values are the most important for every-one. Keeping trees helps combat climate change. The challenge will be protecting the environment in the face of people who have other ideas.
Education, to ensure community values the natural values in their shire. Funding to appropriately manage natural resources. Planning controls, to protect natural vegetation/habitat, ensuring it is managed appropriately into the future. No inappropriate development, resulting in damage to natural vegetation A focus by council on protection of natural values/biodiversity
Expand and support existing wild places so we can limit degradation through overpopulation and it's encumber problemd
The use of concrete ESOs to ensure the maintenance of green spaces.
I think if Nilumbik kept the Green Wedge free from huge development then it would be a wonderful place for many things. There would be opportunities for tourism , it could be a place that is sort out to educate others about environmental management, a safe breeding ground for endangered species flora and fauna and a place for people to picnic, walk, ride in the fresh air and admire the beautiful scenery.
Enhancing biodiversity not just maintaining it .
Introduce and control how the land is used. Restrict any degrading activities and encourage sustainable activities. Discourage developers and farming that detract from conservation values. Perhaps make these farmers and businesses pay higher rates to encourage them to relocate to other areas where the degradation of the environment is not valued.
Look after what we have, don't let it reseed or diminish and be a role model for other

councils/shires/Government agencies
Fostering an appreciation for the natural world in people who will hopefully work to protect it. Improving habitat for flora and fauna could have good biodiversity outcomes.
Expand the education of biodiversity in this area. Conservation of green spaces and community spaces
Nillumbik's Green Wedge can be a unique demonstration of allowing nature a meaningful place at the edge of a major international city
We need to be able to clean up our properties for bush fire readiness, perhaps a free service from council on educating land owners on erosion and biodiversity on their property. Instead of telling land owners, no you can't do that, educate them
The green wedge is already an environmental wonder as suburbia continues to spread.
I strongly believe that with greater openness, respect and education, residents of the shire will come to understand and value the special/biodiverse indigenous flora and fauna it has and the role ALL residents can take to ensure it's protection for future generations.
With the right regulations in place and active management it will become even more important as an area rich in biodiversity.
Improved management and access to parks and reserves. Better weed control
There will always be a need to educate the residents and visitors of the shire about the bushfire, flood and storm events. This is always a challenge as human nature is to become complacent when the danger periods have passed.
Celebrating nature draws people, like the wattle or jazz festival
We have inherited a Green Wedge that contains a lot of good quality eco systems that support many species of flora and fauna. Not just an opportunity but a responsibility to protect and preserve.
Council should do its utmost to retain the Green Wdge as it is
We have inherited some valuable areas of habitat containing threatened and vulnerable flora and fauna. We have the opportunity and responsibility to ensure that we protect and preserve these natural assets
Let the landowners manage their land without interference of the zealous "greenis"
.Lead the way in sustainable practicles.
Enviro pressures have rapidly increased via climate change. Convincing Govt's to find programs to counter this would be great!
to maintain and support green wedge structure and intent
Opportunities will only come our way if we protect what we have left. The ability to rehabilitate is over. Climate change makes that very difficult. We must maintain the level of native vegetation we have left from feral animals, weed invasion and uneducated landowners. The protection of our landscapes from boundary plantings of conifer hedges may keep the tourists coming to look at our bush.
All the above but can be a good example of best practice for the shire and all involved government bodies if well managed. Could provide carbon off sets against government developments elsewhere in infrastructure.
Increasing Biodiversity
Biodiversity, Landscape
Effective management & improvement of the biodiversity area - eg there a vibrant landacre network.
The opportunity to maintain biodiversity & protect the wild life corridor. Kinglake/Warrandyte. The preseravation and protection of a clean river system. Positive impact on climate change and greenhouse gases
> Chance to consolidate and reinvigorate the Green Wedge Management Plan so that environmental values are enhanced & put at the forefront of long term planning decisions.

> Chance to promote the area because of its special character.
Finding to allow agencies such as folks vic to hold "ranger walks" or such like especially on school holidays to showcase & educate people from local areas and beyond as to why we have green Wedge around Melbourne
Ensure the Green Wedge is distinct and a place for ecotourism. Avoid replicating Eltham, which has had its character compromised by overdevelopment. Traffic noise and congestion make people unhappy.
1- huge educational opportunities linked to rmit and high school environment & climate change. 2 - new technology for fire control & protection for homes against bushfire!
I think that there would be an opportunity when they will be able to plant more trees and other plants.
Keeping wildlife and bush
cut down more trees for housing
People with jobs involving nature will visit Nillumbik.
I think that there will be a bigger community to support the Wedge and keep it alive
There is the opportunity to have a perfect green place
theres is lots of trees for us kids to live in
hopefully we can encourage other councils to be green as well
The biodiversity here is great, and we have heaps of room for expansion, such as sculptures and landmarks.
The green wedge has plenty of space expand and grow.
Keeping clean and isolated areas as they are. Not building in these places to stop the disgusting container apartments that look unnatural and all the same from ruining and overpopulating the area.
In the future there might be more people and more trees which will make the environment more busy
Building a reserved park for kids
more people
I am hoping they can start building areas for those people who have nowhere to go in emergencies.
well there are a lot more environmental arguments that are being put out there so i think that they will become a reality.
I think there is an opportunity for everyone to pick up the rubbish and help save lots of places.
keeping Australia bushy and green
a opportunity to preserve the wild life and plants of Australia
More community gardening and services to help keep up the greenery in our environment.
More support for land care to manage the green wedge appropriately and encouragement of appropriate eco tourism and recreational opportunities e.g. picnic areas could see a significant increase in revenue and people appreciation & the value of the green wedge.
Employment for people in sharing & showing the environmental values & management of the natural environment.
Unique flora & fauna. Threatened species conservation & preservation. Live local plant local.
>Reach out to newcomers. > encouragement to children to learn more about importance of healthy lifestyles and exercise in this bush place with fresh air etc. > Help all to appreciate what we have > Continue grants & encouragement to conservationists who put in a lot of hours

volunteering in weed pulling, rabbit baiting as well as protecting plant map from duel.
Hopefully, more money will be allocated to keep the parks and green wedge intact
Nillumbik's green wedge should be used to encourage people to enjoy the fresh air by providing more picnic spots and family friendly activities.
Preserve native habitat and wildlife for future generations.
Better planning
If kept in take it will provide an opportunity to see nature close to the city.
To continue to provide a place for natural bush land and animals to survive
Protection of the environment is good for species protection, human health and lower health cost, fact!
As Melbournes population rockets towards 8 million and beyond, The Green Wedge, if it is preserved, will be seen as a great asset preserved by far sighted regulation rather like the great parks in other major cities. The danger is that it will be degraded or wiped out by short term greed or plain stupidity.
Through this Management Plan we have the opportunity to create a green wedge which is protected for future generations. Please don't let the shortsightedness and greed of a few destroy our natural environment for the many. Our children and their children have the right to live in a Shire where the can go for a bush walk, watch a roo hop by and breath the fresh air into their lungs
We have such an opportunity to be the 'lungs of Melbourne' a sanctuary for art, the environment and sympathetic development.
Support nature conservation
A chapter of the Australian Plants Society (Yarra Yarra) is based in Nillumbik. The members of this society have an enormous breadth of knowledge of Australian plants and also have strong links into network of APS chapters. There should potentially be a strong connection between the APS Yarra Yarra Chapter and the nursery at Edendale Farm. Yet no effort seems to have been made to foster such a connection.
We are blessed with bushland areas. These need to be looked after, bush walking is an excellent recreational and meditative activity. I have in the past suggested pamphlets to explain what is in the bushland. B&Bs could utilize this type of activity and owners be educated re the bushland.
Local land owners could be encouraged to be custodians of local biodiversity
As above
Environmental opportunities will only develop when there is solid leadership and ownership of the fact that Nillumbik has a duty to its citizens and the citizens of Victoria to preserve and enhance our green wedge.
Continue to enhance the environmental strengths to benefit the air and human mental health
As one of the few intact Green Wedges , tourism must rate . Continueing to fulfill it's purpose as the Green Lungs of Melbourne must not be forgotten . Maintaining as much intact bushland and as many trees as we can in the light of Climate Change . A possible income income in the future (carbon credits)
Future opportunities will come at all levels IF we maintain the Green Wedge as it is. Modifying it in any way will start the erosion leading to the eventual breakdown of our point of difference. What we have is UNIQUE and PRECIOUS and we MUST recognise and honour this fact!
Better Environmental Management - Input from experts and visionaries including Indigenous groups.
exists better with bush
Our environmental setting makes this area unique. Council needs to ensure it's protection for future generations.

Be a leading environmentally conscious neighbourhood caring for fauna and flora ahead of profit and greed.
New environmental protection minded councillors.
We need to leave what is left alone and do our best to rehab what has been disturbed or removed.
The unique beauty found, not far from Melbourne.
Clean air and water, mitigation of warming due to climate change
Increasingly the Green Wedge will be a crucial element of Melbourne's environmental strategy to ensure clean air and water for Greater Melbourne. As the pressure for urban expansion increases, so does the value of the green spaces accessible to the city. The opportunities for recreation and local tourism are considerable but ONLY if the integrity of the Green Wedge is not compromised. Once that occurs our opportunity for an economic benefit as well an environmental one is gone. The tracts of remnant vegetation are a significant reservoir of species for the repopulation of other regions. Like wise, our wildlife, so close to the city allows for populations to be monitored and sustained. This custodianship could be a significant role for the Green Wedge and supported by State and Federal governments.
As above.
Nillumbik has a lot of environmental oportunitie that the inner city community can tap into, which I don't think has been marketed enough. EG. Christmas Hills/Smiths Gully mountain bikes tracks and horse riding trails. the aqueduct trails that leads into Preston could be opened up.
The possibility of a well managed and resourced education program to help landowners appreciate and work to improve the environment of the green wedge.
In the 65 years I have lived in the shire, the environment which has not been encroached upon by development has improved immensely, particularly along streams. However, a tipping point has been reached with respect to development and vegetation removal. The opportunity of this review is to draw a line under greenfield development.
Respite haven for people to relax, enjoy the quiet, take in the quiet ambiance of a rural setting close to Melbourne's CBD.
ENcourage landownmers to look after their but of land., Subsidies perhaps for doing the right thing (baiting ,weeds for example). Maybe rate reduction for those on land as we a) don;t use alot of the facilities that our rates pay more and b) it costs us more to look after the rural land the entire geen wedge treasures so much
Make the decision to protect the green wedge from over development. A 5 storey hotel has no place in Eltham. Doncaster and Greensborough have developments like this, Eltham is unique because it doesn't currently have these highly built up areas. Choose to preserve the area not build it up further. Ensure those living in the area continue to enjoy the lifestyles they moved here for, not developing and changing the area for big \$\$\$
Removing any feral animals and weeds
Stop people from removing trees and demand replacements are panted within the Shire. Enforce reaches of regulations and publicise to dissuade others for acting badly. Protect the creeks and rivers from pollution. Use the old tips for a large solar farm.
Keep it green, simple and rustic for those city folk to come out and marvel at ☺
The value of the Green Wedge as a carbon sink to help alleviate climate change is quite substantial.
Nillumbik's environmental resource is precious. It is supported by many volunteer groups including groups from Melbourne that enjoy working to control weeds and repair riparian vegetation. The high level of biodiversity attracts state government grants. The area is a rich study area for environmental students from tertiary institutions and for residents

compiling bird lists. With increased (not reduced) environmental protection the people of Melbourne and from overseas will come to learn about this very different part of the world. The wildlife that some here treat as a hazard is an extraordinary sight to overseas visitors.
It would be good if Nillumbik offered a mulching service instead of taking away green waste so that the organic matter went back into the soil. I would also like to see the discouragement of burning great piles of organic. Advertise more the fantastic resources you provide eg Tim (the weed man)
The chance to use the environment as an attraction to tourists and others looking for access to indigenous flora and fauna.
Encourage Landcare Groups
See above: A more proactive approach to allowing people to live in the Green Wedge is needed, beyond the greedy aspirations of a few loud radicals.
As above
Maintain strict controls on development, do not increase housing density or subdivision, do not encourage uncontrolled economic development and tourism as this will impact on the amenity for the residents
Preserving what we have as a refuge for people who live in Melbourne to enjoy visiting and participating recreational activities such as bush walking, canoeing and cycling.
I think we have to be careful that we don't overuse the sensitive environmental spaces, that the wild areas are preserved, the human is a very invasive species! By having information hubs and controlled environmental experiences we can promote the importance of protecting environment on a local and global scale. Edendale Farm is a great example.
Tourism . And protection. The closest green getaway for people in the city.
Maintain the good health of all the indigenous flora and fauna in the Green Wedge and manage feral animals and introduced species to maintain its integrity. In this it would be important to have the input of our local indigenous communities.
I think there should be more bike paths. Along major roads but also in the green areas. To encourage recreation. There should also be a more places where dogs on leads can walk. Both these things would encourage more tourism for the area, bringing money for conservation. I also believe paddocks should be allowed to return back to bushland.
Revegetation
Oppoertunities to show case best practice in terms of conservation of the bush around Melbourne.
Capitalise on our unique place in Melbourne.
We are the lungs of Melbourne and our area provides a habitat for a multitude of native flora and fauna. It is crucial that areas like this are preserved for the longevity of our natural environment.
Low-impact tourism. The GW's are of immense value to Victoria in a range of ways..socially, economically and environmentally. As an entity, our GW could be marketed more strategically to o/s tourists. Nature-based tourism us immensely popular overseas. I think the landscapes of Nillumbik could be sensitively marketed to draw these tourists to the area
as above
We can be an example for our state to be a viable and healing example to others
The Green Wedge is the environment isn't it? The only opportunity it needs is to be allowed to exist.
Walking trails in the parks and more money for markets will enhance the Green Wedge. More funds spent on protecting the parks and creeks and protecting wildlife helps bring tourists to the Green Wedge.
I think that the greatest opportunity for the green wedge is to promote its enviroment as an

attribute and not to destroy it by over development.
Beautiful and different place to live. Hate tree removal in YY Rd, why didn't trees get planted years ago that could've retained poor planning. Concerned more silly fees will be imposed on residents more permits required money grabs rather than getting it from developers and reducing your staff costs.
By protecting the Green Wedge we keep it as something unique, beautiful and environmentally significant for future residents and visitors. The green wedge can remain a place of beauty for people to visit and appreciate long into the future.
Strengthen environmental protection. Protect the natural habitats and biodiversity. No further subdivision.
The more we conserve what we have the more important and special the Green Wedge will become. We will never regain what we loose. This includes maintaining healthy biodiversity
To become a world leader in preservation of our biodiversity, by finding innovative ways to control feral animals, pests and weeds. To fully understand the complex relationships between and within our environmental communities. To work towards learning the intricate relationships between plants and their pollinators and the life cycle of both.
We can better preserve and improve what Nillumbik's Green Wedge is known for: It's strong stance on protecting the natural bush environment. It has been a well spring for the creative/artisan community, and should continue to be. Sensitive development (so far), that responds to environment.
The value of the Green Wedge comes from preserving and protecting it
Opportunities to increase the unique beauty of reserves and parks in the shire including Fergusons paddock with indigenous plants. Additionally, opportunities to celebrate the history of places like Hurstbridge with placards and trails around townships. This could encourage people from other areas to come and enjoy the unique beauty of the place without having to travel for hours out of Melbourne.
Opportunities to increase the unique beauty of reserves and parks in the shire including Fergusons paddock with indigenous plants. Additionally, opportunities to celebrate the history of places like Hurstbridge with placards and trails around townships. This could encourage people from other areas to come and enjoy the unique beauty of the place without having to travel for hours out of Melbourne.
To grow the local native areas and be a leader in green landscape
Carefully manage to maintain our idyllic environment / lifestyle. No change for the sake of change, if it ain't broke don't fix it.
The Green Wedge was developed to be the lungs of Melbourne. I have seen smog in large cities all through the world. I see the importance having some rural areas close to the city. I can see the smog from my house along the Maroondah corridor up to Lilydale. This is not pleasant.
Rather than maintain the green wedge, we could improve its health and connectiveness. We could be a showcase for improving biodiversity on council land and on residential properties and we could build pride in the community so that more people connect their property into wildlife corridors.
Nillumbik Green Wedge should be a showcase for the rest of Melbourne. Green Wedges are under threat everywhere else in Greater Melbourne not just by large scale release of land by government but death by a thousand cuts by small land owners. Opportunities to amalgamate blocks should be taken. There could be a financial incentive for this. The last thing we need is little hamlets everywhere; this would only serve to increase development pressure. Set Green Wedge township boundaries in concrete once and for all.
* Protecting the (actual) very high biodiversity value properties with council support to place covenants on them at no cost to the property owner * Building protection and preservation of grazing land into the Local Planning Scheme

Be more proactive in protection of green wedge and our biodiversity.
Great environment as it is.
Retention of original bush rather than manicured or cultivated land and the corresponding benefits this has for native wildlife.
Our beautiful environment and landscapes offers a safe haven for biodiversity, habitat for wildlife, eco tourism and a blue print for sustainable communities . The future offers opportunities for the future generation to appreciate and protect our beautiful natural environment. Let's pass on a healthy environment to our kids, rather than a degraded one.
To maintain areas of natural beauty close to Melbourne.
landholders incentive by council to protect the bush blocks through covenants and maintain the pasture block through education and subsidies.
To make an impact on the health of victoria and future generations by keep the green wedge green, and healthy. To keep the lungs of melbourne breathing.
At the same time, the indigenous flora and fauna can be preserved, living in a symbiosis which offers a passive and active benefit to Melbournians and visitors.
To maintain its green wedge title will be a challenge
the environment needs protection... The community will fight for public spaces, for parks and gardens. And the community will fight against the over development of this area.
Avoid over-population.
We can make Nillumbik a case study for controlled development, solar and renewable energy, active recycling, biodiversity and responsible management of the environment.
Use the Green Wedge as a home for innovative sustainability ideas.
Keep Nillumbik green!
Keep it the way it is and improve it, make more state and national parks.
Maintain a balance between nature and development in a sympathetic and environmentally sensible way - and please clean the river at Eltham, it's full of junk!
A unique place that people can continue to visit and enjoy and where the native fauna flourishes in an intact and undisturbed natural environment that produces clean air for Melbourne.
Environmental educated
There are many invested groups who are vigilant about the green wedge protection
Protection of exisiting very high biodiverse properties. Build protection and preservation of grazing land into the local planning scheme.
To cease developers destroying the essence of nillumbik
Preserve open spaces so people can come and socially enjoy from surrounding areas that are increasingly becoming over developed.
Further government funding for environmental protection and weed management. Funds for wildlife protection. Funds for private landowners for further education in relation to environmental protection of their properties. More grants for Council to be able to provide assistance in education in relation to our environment. Tourism to be promoting themselves as 'green' and fitting in with the environmental values of the Green Wedge
Preserve the Green Wedge so that biodiversity is regarded as a priority for the community.
The Kinglake/Yarra corridor thru Watsons Creek has measurably improved diversity through out the area despite the constant threats. Recent sightings of lyrebirds and goannas in Bend of Islands testament to positive aspects of Green Wedge. The current vegetation guidelines for Conservation Zone in Benmd of Islands could be instituted for all of the green wedge, ie a ban on all non native vegetation except for kitchen gardens, ban on any more domestic animals (at least cats!) with exemptions for current use and a sunset clause of say 20 years?
THE GREEN WEDGE IS THE LUNGS OF MELBOURNE ESSENTIAL TO THE WELL

BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS
Saving what is left - will make the Green Wedge a standout, healthy, happy place to live in (for people to live in and visit, eg: cafes, walks,etc).
Identification in the Green Wedge Management Plan of projects to protect and enhance the biodiversity values of the Green Wedge. Providing ongoing support (technical and financial) to landcare groups and individual landholders to protect and enhance biodiversity values.
The Green Wedge is so called as it is green! We need to maintain the environmental beauty of this shire to keep it that way. Therefore infrastructure should take into consideration the possible harm it could do to the environment. Tokenism is not a suitable way to handle this issue. While people must have their needs met, over supply and increase life style choice which harm the biodiversity of the shire should be given serious thought.
Management of bushfire high-risk properties is also essential. Restricting clearing of vegetation beyond the 10/30 rule puts families, animals and tourism at risk, and also risks devaluing properties with acreage.
See Regulatory and Economic sections.
I would hope that the Green Wedge is respected for what it is and the less development allowed within its boundaries the better. Not all land should be seen in economic terms only.
Opportunity to preserve our green wedge for future generations
If those supporting the GW live and work here because they value it and what it offers, it will continue to be the lungs of Melbourne as initially intended. It has the opportunity to provide vital bio-diversity for many species of flora and fauna. While the lungs for air, the environment is also a filter for water. We are so blessed to be custodians of this rich and diverse natural environment.
Improve protection of biodiversity, water quality. Retain our wedge as the most natural/bushy wedge and therefore a draw card for people for that reason.
To maintain the "green wedge" when so many over nearby shires are developing and expanding
We have a great opportunity to make sure we protect and enhance the biodiversity that we are fortunate to still have. We must make sure this opportunity is not lost.
'- Maintain/increase biodiversity - Manage bushfire danger sensibly
Protect it. It's invaluable. It's irreplaceable.
Nillumbik still has remnant bushland and wildlife corridors, which are an irreplaceable asset.
For every tree that is removed another should be planted in an area designated for regeneration/forestation. Community clean-ups of waterways.
To demonstrate to the broader Victorian and national community that our unique environment is precious and presents an alternative to living in highly urbanised environments; this is psychologically enriching
Leave the place as is. do not try and cater for more tourism just make what is currently available sort after
More parks and nature reserves and greater access to trails. Enhanced engagement and consultation with the Wurundjeri and inclusion of Traditional practices of land management.
The environmental values are high and these would be lost if too much development is allowed to occur in this region.
We are a really special Shire. We have small, medium and large landholders but all have one thing in common environment. Wildlife and nature is appreciated and loved. By allowing more subdivision and development we are losing what has made Eltham unique. I am more than happy to pay the most expensive rates in the State to keep what we have.

Hopefully there will be an opportunity for it to be left alone.
maintenance and promotion of some of the beautiful green spaces currently owned or managed by council.
Retention of native veg patches, indigenous overstorey, wildlife habitat, water infiltration, air filtration, etc will contribute environmental health and avoidance of negative impacts such as urban heat island, loss of greenery, species loss.
Regeneration of creek and river banks and public land to support biodiversityIt is a peaceful area providing badly needed clean air to a fast growing city.
We need to retain corridors of indigenous vegetation on and surrounding private property to maintain habitat for our animals and birds. The value of retaining and planting a healthy tree canopy of indigenous species is well known and the Green Wedge is the ideal place to expand our tree canopy.
Great educational platform for studying bird life, botanical life and fire prone areas to name a few.
Nillumbik is attractive to residents and visitors because of the natural beauty of its environment. However, much of the landscape beauty is hidden from view by excessive roadside vegetation, signage and other bric-a-brac. By reducing roadside vegetation, road and roadside hazards will be reduced and a broad vista of the natural rural landscape will be revealed to road travelers. Council therefore must place more emphasis on roadside management to increase the overall attractiveness of Nillumbik..
The people want it so they will work for it and hopefully it will improve not go backwards
The biodiversity and landscape of the area. Once it's built on, it's gone forever and we'll just be like other suburbs with overcrowding.
Preserve it - but be willing to share it for others to enjoy. In other words, control how visitors come to our area and where they go and what they do so that the Green Wedge environment doesn't get spoiled and environmentally compromised.
Carrying on as it is and it will become a weed infested fire danger
<p>The GWMP is a great opportunity to help nurture the natural environment with its remaining areas of unique biodiversity on both private and public property.</p> <p>It is contradictory to say that Council through the GWMP will be enhancing the biodiversity but then allow for spurious or personal reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. more housing in the Green Wedge b. continual slashing of significant roadside reserves c. economic development that does not support the environment d. overgrazing of bush blocks by stock; particularly horses e. preventing protection of our landscape vistas - ie: through the GWMP bring back C81 f. protection of our waterways would be a huge contribution to for the health of the Yarra River system which effects all of Nillumbik environmentally - ie through the GWMP re-introduce C101
Keep Hurstbridge small. Don't overdevelop roads, bridges, blocks. Keep it green and treed
To regenerate the green wedge in the Arthurs Crk area to make it an environmental paradise where holistic farming practices are in operation and it becomes an international mecca for demonstrating how economic activity and environmental regeneration can be symbiotic in their activity to support social engagement and prosperity of a diverse population at all levels.
More emphasis on beautifying town centres with native planting. Development of nature strip planting.
Hopefully, native wildlife will continue to thrive, people will become much more aware of driving slowly through areas where wildlife such as wombats, kangaroos, possums are vulnerable and police actually fine people who don't.
Tourism, IT related living-at-home zones, arts and crafts industries.

Further encouraging green wedge areas, protecting current habitat, improving existing and creating new reserves and parkland
Nillumbik has areas of indigenous vegetation which have been preserved and enhanced over many years. Many cities around the world are now “re-greening” their environment. Let us not make the same mistake of removing trees and vegetation which will take maybe 10, 50, 100 years to properly re establish. We have the opportunity to make an historic decision to enhance rather than destroy the green wedge. Let us decide to leave our children a corner of the world which is helping reduce our carbon footprint.
Why not improve the green wedge by encouraging small businesses to move here. We have an opportunity to make an impact on our greenhouse gases, therefore, we need to make decisions that the Green Wedge makes a positive contribution help mitigate climate change. Every small contribution helps.
The protection and enhancement of the environment is a labour requiring activity, that would enhance local employment. Likewise this environment can be an important attractor for tourists and facilities for these should be developed that are low impact on the environment.
Continuation of programs to maintain and enhance biodiversity and clean energy
Greater assistance to landowners to recognise and retain/enhance the environmental values of their properties.
Everything that has outdoor education in the green Wedge will provide opportunity for commerce & personal developments
Biodiversity - saving and living within the indigenous natural environment
Nillumbik is at the front of garbage disposal. There is no other Shire in Victoria that does it better in recycling. That is a big tick. Nillumbik is changing its street lights to LEDs another big tick. Nillumbik's sporting grounds are some of the best in Victoria through water conservation, another big tick. Nillumbik has a large amount of volunteers that can spread the great work that Council is doing for the environment free of charge? Council could also be promoting itself more in these simple areas.
Nillumbik and its Green Wedge have an opportunity to be environmental leaders in the preservation of a unique asset among Melbourne suburbs. Many residents have chosen to live here for the beauty of its natural environment. Don't turn it into another Doncaster.
If it is preserved then it will become more of an attraction as visitors come to enjoy the area. Particularly if other Green Wedges are destroyed by population growth.
To maintain more green spaces in and around urban areas can only improve air quality and the retention of native flora and fauna. Once the environment is gone - humans will soon follow
Maintain biodiversity and landscape for inhabitants and visitors to enjoy
Will hopefully remain as one of the few remaining green spaces (ie, the lungs) of Melbourne, Providing refuge for declining plant and animal populations.
Retaining biodiversity of flora and fauna, as Nillumbik still has many species that are rare in other areas. The retention of local farms and thus larger properties must be prioritized, as locally produced produce has less of an environmental impact, with a large market on the doorstep of Nillumbik. Boutique industries such as wineries are also important and should be prioritized over urban sprawl.
Opportunities to improve in conservation and preservation of the environment and wildlife.
Socio-economically, Nillumbik's population is (relatively) rich, and unemployment is (relatively) low in the shire. Strategically, legislatively, 'urgent global issues'-wise, socio-economically, in Nillumbik, we can be part of the solution - with our intrinsic conservation role, Nillumbik is the perfect place to start turning things around, to start the change. It's encumbered on us. If not in Nillumbik, where else?

The area will increasingly be prized and valued for it's remnant nature, as the surrounding areas are paved, deloped and landscaped.
Council has supported the Green Wedge environmentally and will hopefully continue this support. We have a unique set of environmental characteristics that can be protected and enhanced for the enjoyment of many people for years to come. Sensible rules and regulations will ensure protection and promotion of the environment within the Green Wedge.
Fight to protect every leaf and stick possible. Try some more street planting. A couple of years ago efforts were made to plant red box eucalypts in streets around Eltham. Many of these were knocked over. There are a few left doing well. Why weren't attempts made to have the failures replaced.
Let's build environmentally sustainable communities. Let's have clean water with improved waterways, renewable enegy and biodiversity. Let's help our children to appreciate our beautify natural environment.
Opportunities to protect the environment and biodiversity. We want healthy soils, clean water and a stable climate. The lungs of Melbourne. Extensive treed areas will help combat climate change
It already is environmentally gorgeous and thus could just be upheld and the money spent on this plan could be used eg for the trail that needs funding
I want the bush aspects of the Green Wedge to be fiercely protected. New residents moving here should be advised/educated about the need to "plant local", otherwise the area will turn into yet another concreted suburb with an unrelated mish-mash of struggling vegetation.
The opportunities here are boundless as the world slowly realises that the only future possible is one that encompasses and considers the environment.,
Clean Energy Nillumbik, if fully supported, could make us a model for other communities in the rollout of renewable energy and independence from the grid (whose poles and wires can be a bushfire risk, as we saw in 2009 and in earlier bushfires). I imagine also that we could do a lot in catchment management - Diamond Creek is but a shadow of its former self, from what I hear from long-time residents; can we not restore it? Similarly could we set up biolink corridors to again make Nillumbik a standout shire.
Maintaining and creating unique Bush and country environments to provide réfugia and reserves for rare and endangered flora and fauna.
Nillumbik is the direct connection from Port Philip Bay to the ranges via the Yarra River, Plenty River and Diamond Creek. There have been a major effort to connect the Centre of Melbourne via a series of Parks, bicycle paths and tourist opportunities to create an 'healthy parks, healthy people' ethos in the general populous. This effort has been wildly successful. Getting people into the environment increases greater appreciation for the natural environment and as such improves the maintenance and rehabilitation of these precious places. These very actions have lead to people with an environmental awareness and appreciation moving into Nillumbik over the past 40-50 years and taking formerly degraded land 'bush' and returning it to a much healthier state. Some of these people have taken this appreciation one step further and made a commitment to put native plants and animals first by putting conservation covenants on their properties. This process continues with an increasing number of covenants being adopted by landholders in Nillumbik. This covenanted land is essentially a series of Private Nature Reserves that compliment and increase the value of the public land in the Shire. All of these covenants have funded and monitored management plans associated with them providing a net benefit to the tourism sectors within the Shire. Indeed, some of the tourism operators also participate in the Conservation Covenant program. The net benefit for the environment is the conservation of native vegetation and the plants and animals that occur here. Most notably, the many rare, threatened and endangered species that occur in the Shire are able to be protected from extinction through proper management of their habitats.

A place where habitat is for local flora and fauna.
Future looks bleak for the environment overall given the current trend within the Shire. So preservation, conservation and weed eradication are paramount by Council and residents.
There's an opportunity to lead the way here in Nillumbik and create a conservation focussed shire that successfully integrates small scale ethical business, tourism and arts industry development with sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices. The first step is to ignore those who want to profit through the fragmentation and further environmental destruction of the green wedge. Profiteers and wanna-be developers are a dime a dozen. Green wedges a wonderful idea which blend public and private benefit in unique ways, and can be made to work for the betterment of all. Those who live in the wedge and insist on considering only their private benefit are living in the wrong place and undermine the values and the wider benefit of the wedge.
The wedge needs to be preserved so that it is not consumed by stealth.
The network of Friends groups that operates across the Shire are currently doing great work revegetating select areas. I am part of the Karingal-Yallock Friends group, and have learned a great deal about caring for the environment (and also made some good friends) through this group. I would hope that these groups can be extended and that the council can continue and increase support for this important activity.
Bushfire
Retaining natural green spaces for the health and wellbeing of humans and animals and the overall environment.
As urban Melbourne continues to densify, the green wedges will take on more significance as places to go to get away from the hustle and bustle. This can raise the importance of preserving and revitalising the green wedge, as well as provide economic benefits to the region if managed well.
Clean air. Heritage. Area for horse riders.
The influx of developers has to be kept to a minimum, but there are certainly opportunities for growth in the domestic area.
The great green natural country feeling attracts more population.
The opportunities to engage both the Nillumbik community and beyond with the natural landscape and flora/fauna is endless. Clearly the natural world here has inspired tremendous human creativity, etc.
A great opportunity is for the anomalies in the Rural Conservation Zone to be addressed. There is a serious discrepancy when 81% of lot sizes are smaller than the standard size of the zone. Instead of it being 'locked up' more people are needed in the green wedge to 'live in the landscape'. It makes no sense to have the metropolitan train service between Eltham and Hurstbridge under a minimum 8ha lot size.
To help the environment in the future Council must pressure Yarra Valley Water to improve high e-coli readings that occur after rains. Sewerage work is required to connect the cluster of houses in the Heidelberg-Kinglake Road / Sylvan Road area, the Eltham South area including Monsalvat as the run-off enters the Plenty and Yarra rivers. Assist Yarra Valley Water to connect Wattle Glen Memorial Park - approx. 200 metres from Eltham main sewer line. past flooding has caused raw sewerage to enter Diamond creek.
Utilize existing infrastructure such as rail, road, sewer and mains gas where possible. Recognize those parts of the shire with viable farmland and those areas where it is uneconomic.
Bushfire is & will continue to be an enormous threat. The harsh reality is that many areas of Nillumbik are a death trap. Containment lines, protecting residential areas, fuel reduction & escape routes must be addressed. neglected bush blocks with large loads of understory vegetation reflect poor management and put the community at risks. This needs to be addressed.

**Please tell us about what economic opportunities you think there are for
Nillumbik's Green Wedge in the future.**

Nillumbik has not much at the moment. We need more B&Bs, more food places based on fresh food. More music alternative. FOOD seems to be what gets people to visit places.
Home based business as long as the council is as not as active in rejecting any proposal.
Tourism again. To try to reduce the green wedge to a monetary value is so inappropriate - how do you put a price on beauty or functioning lungs?
Small local business keeps cars off the road
We need to make Nillumbik a destination of choice
Tourism and the ability for people in Melbourne to visit a diverse landscape.
The Green Wedge is the Gateway to the Yarra Valley. Tourists love to drive through our area to see the wide open spaces, the trees and the gorgeous countryside.
We need some industrial / business areas for local employment.
Tourism via greater connectivity with our neighbouring shires. Connect nillumbik to the greater Melbourne network of trail systems with supporting infrastructure, businesses.
Increased agriculture.
Business mentoring
As above. Any economic opportunities must be sensitive to current regulations and based on providing a service for residents and visitors to the area. Emphasis should be on what the GW can offer rather than how can we make the GW fit everything we want.
Forgot about economics and think of the long term future
Allowing some sensible development will create economic opportunities and some confidence that Nillumbik is no longer a "1970's museum piece".
Nillumbik has great potential to position itself as an artisan community not dissimilar to the dandenongs. A historical cultural hub with a community that places a high value on nature with a diverse reasons to visit: restaurants, cafes, wineries, Monsalvat, eltham railway station, kangaroo ground watchtower, warrandyte, sugarloaf etc. These economic opportunities will dissipate if the shire becomes further subdivided.
Natural attractions and proximity to city will continue to offer opportunities if not stifled.
Tourism. Good sustainable, environmentally friendly tourism. Family operated business
There has been no better time to exploit what we have here -there are education opportunities, tourism of our unique environment, environmental business, specialised business that can build on the "green" in our green wedge.
Acknowledge and support the businesses associated with equestrian activity. Eg - feed stores, rug repairs and supplies. Saddleries, Farriers, Horse Trainers, Riding Instructors, Fencing contractors. Arena construction and maintenance, wood shavings suppliers, clothing outfitters etc
Increased food production in Strathewen and increased tourism as a result.
agriculture,tourism,food
Better tourism marketing, attracting the right businesses into our villages and towns
Maximise potential benefits of the unique character of the landscape and environment for tourism and high quality food production and sales.
A quick transition to renewable energy will reduce energy costs for businesses and residences and improve energy security. Coupling this with strong EV (electric vehicle) infrastructure will give Nillumbik a boost by being at the forefront of EV transition. Maintaining Nillumbik's natural environment provides opportunities for tourism.
Being a local destination for Melbournites could be beneficial.
More horse agistment and B&B type accommodations so that more people can stay in the green wedge

Better promotion and use of the Sugarloaf Dam as an asset to the district - it's there - it's accessible - it's terrific. More motor sport events at ROB ROY and perhaps the creation of youth motor bike events there or elsewhere. It would be terrific to use the old KG tip site for something - perhaps Victoria could open an international sports shooting facility there? The business case for it is strong, and Nillumbik does not have any state wide facilities to attract people so perhaps this would bring people and their money in to the district
Those that live on farm land in the Green Wedge will be sub divided and taxed out of existence.
More focus on the biodiversity and artists in the region to attract tourists. Farmers markets St. Andrews markets are all great things to continue supporting
We all need to understand that you can't always put a price on things. The majority of people in the Green Wedge have High income jobs and use their land for recreational purposes. So let's not be greedy and do our bit to protect the Green Wedge!
Increased tourism to visit the beautiful natural environment.
If this Shire Council is to survive the threat of amalgamation, it needs to inspire and engage. This is a great first and progressive step. More is required, but don't just listen to the usual stooges from Business units and think tanks, look for inspiration from unexpected sources. For example - on the Gold Coast, the Eat Street concept in Brisbane is hugely popular. Tasmania does the winery and experience very well like Devils Corner, on the East Coast, outside Bicheno.
Small scale farming , as exists today with emphasis on clean green product . MINIMAL tourism stays eg bed and breakfasts , country eateries , picnic areas . Our natural environment is our biggest drawcard . Enhancement of that natural environment will continue to pay dividends into the future . Claiming carbon credits for our bushland .
If Nillumbik can maintain its precious Green Wedge (including flora and fauna, landscapes, bushland etc) its tourism future is assured because we're easily accessed from Melbourne. Challenge is to have productive land without undermining our natural assets. More government funding is also essential.
Open a brewery in Healesville. Close the public transport gap to Yarra Glen and the Yarra Valley
Passive recreation and tourism in well preserved waterways and a bio-diverse ecology. Re-introduction of indigenous practices and flora & fauna to enrich the ecology and thereby attract low impact tourism.
wine, horticulture and wineries, tourism and art.
There's a great opportunity to encourage inner city dwellers to visit Hurstbridge by train. For them to experience the only bush walk so close to a suburban station. Hurstbridge would also need to develop other attractions.
We should be promoting the uniqueness of the Green Wedge and not trying to mirror other non-descript shires.
no comment
Economic opportunities include Taking advantage of the desire for organic healthy food especially grown locally -eg Farmers Markets * Sourcing and selling local organic foods in our cafes -this is very popular a new cafe doing this has just opened -always booked out-more could be opened PLenty of sites for shops going * Our new Provedore shop is hugely popular & it sources & sells local organics * In this area people are seeking healthy food & lifestyles * exercise classes are in demand * Running walking groups is an opportunity & a need * Bike riding groups could be run
With the lack of development the council will struggle to be financially viable

Churches who pay little, if any, rates should NOT have exemptions to open when other needed facilities are banned. They should be paying their fair share.
The rural villages and artisan & artistic businesses are a key attraction. With expanding population - this must provide more opportunities for operators.
Dedicated artistic and cultural spaces and community centres could help support, enhance and protect green wedge space which will become increasingly important as we develop Victoria at an ever increasing pace.
Nillumbik should be able to capitalise on being the green wedge so close to the city - there should be a lot of tourism opportunities
Tourism around the beauty, both wildlife and native vegetation, being so close to Melbourne is a big draw card.
Nillumbik is a very special place and managed well can continue to be special and at the same time promote business opportunity particularly around tourism. The Eltham little train is a perfect example of the community pulling together to create an appeal for families from many walks of life to come and enjoy. Other draw cards will help economic development however it needs to be managed well so the environment is not destroyed and traffic is planned for with adequate parking.
Encourage the wineries orchards and any other tourist attractions that celebrate the environment.
Hopefully the Great Forest National Park is finally realised, and an eco-tourism industry in the Green Wedge and north can flourish.
The Green Wedge will enhance property values because it will become more and more unique as time goes on.
Tourism: given proximity to the city it offers a rural experience within 1hr of Melbourne.
Tourism. It's a beautiful and accessible place to visit. It will loose that the more houses are built.
Some areas around townships could cope with a little more development. Eg Hurstbridge
Tourism, arts, fine dining - we are gateway to Yarra Valley. Our community is relatively well educated - more remote working opportunities with financial and digital services.
I think setting up more areas that people can come for BBQ's and picnics would add to the area.
There are continuing opportunities to showcase this beautiful part of Melbourne at local community events such as the Hurstbridge Wattle Festival, and various local Farmers' Market events. Boutique hospitality locations (rather than resort-style developments) would offer visitors and tourists the chance to be immersed in this beautiful place.
Tourism managed so it doesn't destroy the GW.
It also presents an opportunity for tourism if managed appropriately.
Need more places like Edendale farm. Lower rent in shops so Mr and Mrs average have a chance.
Pls see above. It is VERY important to engage the residents of Melbourne to engage with the Green Wedges to ensure their longevity.
If we attract more visitors for a day win the country, this is to the advantage of local business and the rate base of the whole Shire of Nillumbik.
Tourism, wine production, some farming. For years we have tried to persuade the state government to provide Nillumbik with extra funding simply because it is a GW shire, which means less rates and resources for infrastructure. This should continue as the economic prospects of the GW are necessarily limited.
A green oasis tourism destination: short breaks from the city where people can 'commune with nature' and 'recharge batteries' and spend their money!

see above
tied to social via tourism avenues.
Support environmentally friendly green clean industry in the area which does not destroy or encroach on the Green Wedge.
There are exceptional business development opportunities through ecotourism.
Appropriate tourism opportunities should be allowed.
If nillumbik suburbs continue to retain there green wedge feel house prices will naturally continue to rise and the suburbs in this area became sort after. This proved economic status and attracts families with money to the area which is better for the shops, supporting clubs, schools etc. I would also like to see atleast 1 cafe on the bike tracks too so people can drop in on there rides. We love doing this on the Bright to porepunkah ride.
The Green Wedge management plan should include elements which promote and improve the implementation and uptake of sustainable technologies, such as solar panels, water catchment, and in particular improvements and incentives in waste minimisation, reuse and recycling. I appreciate there are current initiatives in this area however local businesses can drive significant improvements through careful consideration of aspects such as environmentally friendly packaging, local return a bottle schemes and delivery of locally sourced produce.
To further enhance the townships excised from the Green Wedge and so develop stronger hubs. To develop an aboriginal cultural and awareness program to not only educate but encourage non-destructive tourism to the area.
To develop strategies to deal with the rising costs and residents' resistance to economic pain. To attempt to get increased funding from other levels of Government for maintenance of the Green Wedge
Improved tourism by encouraging ecotourism. Flora and Fauna tours of our great reserves; promotion of walking tracks and group walks. Advocacy for the Great Forest National Park which will increase tourist attraction of the area either as a gateway to the Park, or as a place to stay while visiting the Park
Look at Healesville and Daylesford as examples of the potential for retail, tourism and encouragement of our artisan hills concept
Harness the creative potential living within the Nillumbik community - make it an arts capital.
The best economic opportunity is to keep the GW intact as possible. The GW itself is the valuable asset.
Plenty, just economic advantage needs to keep the environment that makes it special in the first place.
Parks encourage visitors who may spend money in the townships. Golf course is an attraction. Markets selling local goods. Does the Green Wedge have to make money. Can't it just be?
keeping hurstbridge township as is
Communication and shared visions
The shire's skilful management of the NGW can be a great example of how a shire can be both fiscally responsible whilst providing superior care of a precious environmental and social asset.
To be a destination for low impact tourism. To develop its artisan strengths, particularly around food growing.
Tourism etc

Development of recreational facilities for locals and visitors alike.
Nillumbik's natural bushland and small rural townships are a tourist drawcard. Retain those. Ecotourism / small scale 'green' businesses are increasing in popularity.
Make more money out of those who don't abide by the green wedge principals. Decrease the rates of those on Bush blocks.
The proximity of Nillumbik's green wedge to metropolitan Melbourne will provide an ideal opportunity for tourism opportunities that embrace the values of the area.
support an arboretum and more parks
As mentioned tourism will continue to grow and this is where Council can develop opportunities to expand the available activities within the shire. There are a number of shared trails in planning and development which can be extended throughout the shire. The development of riding trails throughout the shire will be another activity that shire should invest in. The number of riders living in or visiting the shire will utilise these facilities, and will happily pay an appropriate fee for the privilege.
As above. Our local St Andrews market used to be a vibrant place of difference. Now it is drab, sells lots of imported goods. It has lost its heart and needs to come back into community management.
Break even.
Appropriate eco business. Community focused projects.
Tourism is the big opportunity in the future as long as we can balance the visitor numbers with protection of the landscape and wildlife. The number of cars on the road as well as bike riders is challenging for the locals as well as the environment. Roadside litter and deterioration of road surfaces plus barriers and signs add to the cost of the community.
All the above, possible wineries.
Eco-tourism and living off the land
None of the above
Sustainable environment tourism that celebrates the unique qualities of the Green Wedge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Opportunity to think "outside the box" > Promotion of small scale farming, organic farming, sustainable systems > Could become a model for the future in showing how to balance modern life in tune with nature.
People with eco-tourism ideas should be heard and encouraged, perhaps financially or with information and support to make these ideas real if they fell into a category which will benefit the GW. Most business need to be small - I really don't want the traffic and wall-to-wall scenario of another Yarra Valley have.
Like the St Helena Secondary College slogan says, the Council should Dare to be Different.
1- flora walks, bird spotting, orchid walks, conservation demonstration. The list of eco tourism & eco education is huge!
Could have more hotels, tourist spots.
Since it is such a nice green area people will want to come and see.
I think there is a lot of open space for new properties.
With the amount of support in the green wedge already, it wouldn't be too much of a stretch to say that small business could grow in future.
Tourism.
Soon big a company might want to buy a large amount of land and want to build something there like a hotel or plaza but they would have to cut down trees, get rid of animals homes and possibly killing them!
more people will come which means there will be more money
I think that the tourism will rise because the land is so peaceful and beautiful that people

would love to come and see it all.
In the future it could become a touring industry
there will be more houses.
because it is such a nice place people will want to come and so there isn't many job opportunities
In the future there will be more people and more tourists, meaning more buildings and tourist attractions. But the more people we have and the more buildings the less we have of the green wedges.
Since the green wedge is a beautiful place I think tourism will grow and many people can make money off that and still work here and not be pushed into the city.
I would love to see farm gate businesses on all the cleared 20 acres blocks. Kangaroo Ground has rich Volcanic soil & is perfect for growing food. This would be great for the owners, locals & tourists. Maybe plots could be let out to groups in return for vegies to the owners.
Support agriculture on existing cleared land. Organic / gourmet produce.
Follow the current GWMP. Keep regulations about removal of trees & vegetation , building on too small blocks
Tourism
Better investment in eltham as a family destination
Reduced health care costs, better tourism opportunities, nature based tourism is the fastest growing tourism sector and will have long term economic benefits by having cleaner waterways and cleaner air that won't have to be treated.
Nature based tourism.
tourism could be more developed if people could enter and exit the region without always being caught up in traffic
Many people are attracted to the Green Wedge to participate in recreational activities. However, some businesses that could support such activities don't seem to understand the market that they exist to serve.
Please see above re tourism.
Ecotourism and education of biodiversity
Tourism, food tours, environmental tours
Plenty of future opportunities for cafes, art galleries, farm gates, markets, BnBs, artisans, music festivals, local traders, wellness and medical providers....
A better planned and managed green wedge with Natural parks, cafes, farms, resorts can become a great tourist attraction and earner.
It's a great tourism destination and this will only increase.
treasured because of lack of bush
Coffee shops for cyclists. Vinyards for wealthy tax minimizers. Equarian centres. Gift shops.
Demonstrate that a sustainable community can exist without a focus on money and development.
Tourism for this unique and tranquil space.
Tourism
Eco-tourism and capitalising on potential for "Great Walk" with bunkhouse accommodation or youth hostel
If the revitalisation of Hurstbridge is any indication then the opportunities for Nillumbik to develop small scale businesses that attract visitors both inside and outside the Shire are excellent. While none of these will be a large employer the aggregate of small business jobs will be a great benefit. Unfortunately the Shire has not marketed nor promoted the business

<p>opportunities well enough. We have insufficient accommodation, especially B&B, poor transport and not enough local promotion. The growth of the Open Studios has been encouraging and shows how much this type of activity could grow. Tourists, both local and overseas, are looking for small scale, intimate experiences especially in the food and produce area. Eltham and St Andrews Markets are drawcards but Hurstbridge is a disaster. The location, the proximity to the train and the charm of the village should have made this venture a gem. It needs a serious overhaul. Live music and the arts venues are not promoted as they could be. Nillumbik has a long held character for lifestyle, alternative activities. These are increasingly desirable for city dwellers and tourists.</p> <p>The rural areas of Nillumbik are still one of the most productive in the state, not individual properties, but as a whole. And it is this branding of Nillumbik produce (as was successful in the Yarra Valley and the Huon Valley in Tasmania) that will help our farmers stay on their properties.</p>
<p>I think for a select few properties Nillumbik could allow more B AND B,s and Eco Tourism High end get aways, As we are only 45mins from Melbourne and 15 Minutes from the Yarra Valley.</p> <p>Bringing in extra income for land holders to care for there properties more.</p>
<p>I think Tourism, done in a sensitive way, may enable more people to love this area and result in greater protection for it and reduce the pressure for further land development.</p>
<p>Increased tourism and hospitality opportunities but without sanitising the area. If people want to experience our area, let them experience a dirt road (don't; seal it just because you want to increase tourism). Let people come and see how we live/work/grow stuff/farm.</p>
<p>Micro and small businesses that don't impact on the environment and don't ruin the amenity of surrounding residents. Do not allow the miniature railway in Eltham to expand - it does not bring any revenue into the Shire other than to the railway itself and no one except parents with young children are interested in it.</p> <p>A gallery to exhibit and sell local artists' work would be great - I have been asked on a number of occasions by visitors where the local gallery is - we don't have one.</p>
<p>We already have it - don't stuff it up!</p>
<p>The value of the Green Wedge is under utilized from a Tourism perspective, development of more walking, hiking, mountain biking trails will bring more visitors with associated economic advantages</p>
<p>If managed properly, the area could be a wonderful day trip from the suburbs.</p>
<p>we have an area that is unique in the state. promote walking trails , horse trails,specialty restaurants food wine etc</p>
<p>See above: there needs to be a systematic approach to attract appropriate businesses to our towns - or they are doomed.</p>
<p>There is a great opportunity to attract tourism to Nillumbik through our open space and natural environment.</p>
<p>As the lungs of Melbourne</p>
<p>Our uniqueness of natural habitat in the great urban sprawl provides a great opportunity for eco tourism to share these benefits with those in the developed suburbs of tar and cement. Also overseas visitors are valuing our uniqueness of landscape and natural environment.</p>
<p>Economic benefits from Eco tourism</p>
<p>We can use our green wedge credentials to encourage tourism. Local businesses will flourish from the tourist trade because people want to come to our beautiful area.</p>
<p>Nature-based tourism. Accommodation to compliment these experiences, local produce from the Yarra Valley and Nillumbik growers.</p>
<p>as above</p>
<p>We don't want small house blocks just closer to 1 - 5 acres each where all can enjoy the lifestyle and share the expense. Councils and governments would all gain by the rates</p>

raised with such a plan. Why should city people tell people who have owned land for over 60 years that they may never gain from the land purchased long prior to when this wedge was applied.
I think protecting the green wedge keeps this area unique, and makes it a place people want to visit and live, which supports local economy. Protecting the green wedge and future economic health go hand in hand.
Conserve what we have got as it will become more and more attractive in time to those outside and will be a place desired to live and the visit here. Land values will rise and small tourist ventures will thrive.
I think tourism would be a benefit for the green wedge. If you developed more trails (including horses). You would get more people into the area, which would help small businesses by bringing new people into the area
I think that the social and economic opportunities are interrelated for Nillumbik. Sir Rupert's vision of Melbourne was that no individual should be more than twenty minutes from a green wedge. We have a train that delivers people to the heart of our green wedge we have massive populations building on our western boundary passive tourism will be very much sought after we are ideally positioned to provide it as long as we maintain our countryside, vistas and a healthy ecosystem.
IF council can improve the social elements outlined previously there is a large economic opportunity as people can grow tourism and business. Currently this will / can not occur due to terrible infrastructure and planning
bringing people to area as tourist attraction
Cropping will replace cattle etc in the long term and orchards will be sustained but in the short term, there needs to be a strategy to amalgamate smaller parcels into larger one for sustainable agriculture as well as look more seriously at ameliorating small pockets of land subject to a rising water table
The point of the Green Wedge is not to make money, and economic opportunities should not be sought for it. Development should be confined to existing urban areas
Nillumbik has the chance to develop but in the right way. Allow development but make sure there is infrastructure, enforce bigger block sizes (1000m +) and require new homes to have a range of environmental features (solar, grey water systems, energy efficiency, water tanks etc).
Opportunities for eco tourism abound. Appropriate tourism for the GW. One if the best things you can do for business in any area is A1 connectivity. This would enable more people to efficiently work from home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Make Nillumbik Shire the shared trails capital of the country - fantastic tourism opprtunity so close to Melbourne's doorstep. * Recognising the local Equine Community as one of the largest, if not the largest 'rural activity group' and rural economic drivers in the Nillumbik Green Wedge
Great economic opportunity as it is.
'- The value of our unique environment, of our beautiful landscapes, of such rich biodiversity – eg in attracting people for their health and well being, recreational pursuits, to markets, festivals, orienteering, musical and other artistic events, carbon emission offsets. Reject the opening of the region to major commerce. We prefer to shop locally, and to support locally made and distributed food and products. The Green Wedge currently attracts huge biodiversity grants - we need to retain these. The continuation of healthy productive agriculture relies on a vigorous, bio-diverse environment which delivers healthy soils, clean water and a stable climate.
Tourism
Find tourist opportunities to appreciate the green wedge and environmental tourism
Sensible use of the land (eg, wine growing) and taking advantage of the environment and

scenery with function centres, etc
If the cleared land is preserved for agriculture, this will help to feed the city and reduce food miles. This benefits the whole country.
As people seek to reduce their environmental footprint, we in Nillumbik can maintain the green tourist edge we have, encourage locally produced and sourced foods, encourage small local businesses with a community focus and look to giving young people pro-social activities in the area.
We should be investing in making our shire the 'greenest' in the state! Green industries and jobs
If encouraged and effectively managed it could create a tourist MEKA and abundance to invest into the region....
Tourism, walks, natural parks.
To draw tourists to the area via the miniature railway, library, and beauty of the area.
Keep large lots for agriculture - the vista is open farm land
The continued development of tourism infrastructure will be of significant value to the shire. Recognition that, economically, the local Equine Community is one of the largest contributors to the Green Wedge.
Green and sustainable tourism in the current environment
If th Green wedge remains and strengthens - The area will be popular with overseas visitors, interstate visitors and Melbournians. Food, accommodation, walks, animal viewing, markets, etc, etc.
I think that each town in the green wedge offers something different for visitors- local pubs, restaurants and cafes, and wineries. There are also ongoing agricultural activities and the businesses that support both these and hobby farms such as my own.
Encouragement of soil based niche farming enterprises through both technical support and financial incentives such as farm rate reductions.
Apart from farming and sporting facility I think all other development should be reisted
<p>The Green Wedge offers advantageous opportunities for business development in the arts, culture, green businesses (solar, plants, nurseries, green built environment), tourism, health, hospitality, horse-riding, agriculture, organic products, wineries, markets and festivals. It is the environmental and cultural setting which attracts and provides for these businesses. It is the setting, activities, events and interesting businesses located within it that attracts tourism.</p> <p>It is tourism which feeds the demand in local cafes, wineries, pubs, restaurants, markets, B&Bs, etc.</p> <p>Protecting and enhancing the environment which is at the heart of these economic opportunities is fundamental to Nillumbik's prosperity and economic growth</p> <p>This resource is under constant threat from some land-owners who wish to be free of their responsibilities to maintain and enhance the GW and some landowners who pressure to extend the UGB so as to subdivide existing land.</p> <p>No compromise is possible if we are to protect the GW on which so much of Nillumbik's economy depends. Any compromise would mean advantaging a small group at the expense of a larger group, as well as at the expense of all Victorians and the environment itself.</p> <p>The economic challenge is to protect from inappropriate development that natural beauty which attracts people to live, earn a living, visit, holiday and spend here.</p>
I do not support any economic development that brings a lot more people living in the area. Hence I do not support retirement villages etc. Land use sympathetic to the area like vineyards or other agriculture that also leaves some remnant vegetation I think is far more acceptable.
Tourism from the green wedge environment and mudbrick heritage
Possibility of small Market gardens to supply local communities, vineyards and tourists being

attracted to the area by these and many other opportunities
Huge economic opportunities for tourism, ensuring mental health and general well-being for residents and those visiting or passing through. We can't put a dollar figure on the survival of natural resources, as we all require their success to survive.
Based on Nillumbik being the least spoiled and degraded green wedge retain that standing and use that to attract people, not to commercial ventures and to attract 'high yield' tourists to the type of accommodation and activity they are supposed to want but to attract people who value what we have to offer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concentrate on eco-tourism and not mass tourism - Do not subdivide - Do not over agriculturalise but leave plenty of bushland for recreational - Do not overdevelop
Every time a resident removes a tree in Nillumbik they should pay a levy for another tree to be planted in an designated area (see environmental opportunities above.)
Eltham College as largest employer in shire should be assisted to grow
as above - opportunities for passive recreation through eco tourism ventures. Host field trips for plant nerds (like me!), stag watching spotlight tours, look for opportunities for paid hike in camp sites
Opportunity to market Nillumbik as an alternative to the poorly treed parts of Melbourne.
There are many ways to attract people to the green wedge, providing economic opportunities for residents, eg markets, festivals, bushwalking, concerts and exhibitions. Small eco tourism and cultural heritage businesses could be set up.
Using this area as an Educational Platform which includes eco-tourism
Some tourism is desirable with appropriate facilities that encourages the green environment
I'm sure there is plenty of scope for tourism in the area as it has so much to offer which other areas and suburbs can't possibly match.
We're right alongside one of the fastest growing housing corridors in the state (to our northwest) who all want to visit the Yarra Valley - and they have to drive through our Green Wedge to get to the Yarra Valley. Set the Nillumbik Green Wedge to attract visitors - walking and riding trails, wineries, cideries, galleries, bakeries, restaurants, accommodation, fantastic signage, visitor assistance, buy in from local businesses, enthusiasm for the idea of creating employment in the services industries to make coming to this area a wonderful idea and a great experience.
with the regulatory restrictiveness as it is the Green wedge will become worthless .Look at bends of islands, except for its residence no one ever go there anymore and land prices has dropped to less than half of the median house price The end result will be no value no maintenance
Endless. accommodation recreation social enterprise education aged care working hubs business incubators social capital projects etc....
For the green wedge adjacent to the Mernda/Doreen growth corridor to demonstrate how sensitive economic development can enhance social cohesion and provide the resources to develop sustainable holistic land management that enhances the environmental values of the green wedge.
Continued support for events such as Open Artists studios etc.
More green tourism, animals,wine, art, better playground in Hurstbridge to attract people to the rural part of Nillumbik
As the lungs of Melbourne, the Nillumbik green wedge has much to offer the wider Melbourne population. We could increase economic opportunities to the area by really focusing on making the environment a top priority
Limited development of tourist facilities that are based on the rural and environmental aspects of the green wedge should be pursued to provide additional work and economic

activity, but this must be done in a way that protects and enhances those aspects and does not degrade them. The combination of artistic, musical, food and wine and environmental experiences should be promoted. The continuation of events like Open Cellars, Open Farms and Open Studios is highly desirable.
Promotion of clean energy projects and appropriate agriculture in already cleared land
Tourism
There are tourism opportunities, but please do keep these within the main activity centres if they require infrastructure. eg Please keep Christmas Hills rural ! I do see the recreational trails like the one to Hurstbridge as an economic opportunity.
Tourism, farming, wineries, boutique breweries and similar cottage type light industries.
Will hopefully remain as one of the few remaining green spaces (ie, the lungs) of Melbourne, Providing tourism opportunities and economic benefits for local businesses.
A collaboratively managed Green Wedge will provide an environment that supports existing local businesses and encourages new entrants; Nillumbik's reputation of being green & extreme must be moderated in the Green Wedge to be attractive and sustainable to all. In turn this will enhance the recognition of the shire overall to outsiders. There are already strong agricultural, artistic and other streams with the Green Wedge that still have untapped capacity.
Nillumbik's Green Wedge needs to support the current local businesses. If the area is subdivided and further developed we will lose the unique environment and openness that we live and work in forever.
There are opportunities for growth in tourism and supporting more local businesses Without it becoming CBD or shops based. The nature side needs to be preserved
More arts events, especially aimed at junior artists. Food & wine events.
To make Eltham amazing again! it has a train stop so there are lots of people passing through eltham and i think so much more can be done to keep the family and strong sense of community alive. Flower boxes should be planted in the main street, nice park benches, there should be Christmas decorations up in December and Fairy lights and make the main road look amazing! so many families are moving to the area, and we need too clean up eltham and make it an amazing place to come with great boutiques, cafes, restaurants. We need to give people a reason to come to eltham and not just pass through
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation. Nillumbik's Green Wedge and high quality biodiversity present our natural and relative economic advantage. With a clear conservation focus, Nillumbik's role is obvious. As the "Lungs of Melbourne", we are perfectly poised to be part of the solution in addressing the urgent global issues of climate change and threats to biodiversity. State Government recognition and support of this is crucial. • Opportunities to becoming recognised experts in landscape-scale management of environmental repair, and to create real/lasting jobs for disadvantaged and young people ("opportunity" cost savings in mental health and prisons). • Opportunities relating to 'carbon sink' / carbon sequestration / carbon emission offset schemes. • Food-security-wise, and being peri-urban providing relative advantages in low transport and supply costs to the Melbourne markets and port, agriculture should be encouraged. • Recreation; health & well-being; local arts-driven & eco-tourism. • With the high education levels of the local population and the roll out of NBN, etc technology, encourage home-based businesses/consultancies. • The steady population increase naturally supports the existing local retail sector.
There will be a huge number of opportunities for agriculture and other businesses in the Shire as we are so close to the population centre of Melbourne. Sensible and appropriate planning will hopefully assist with this.
Grow organic food in our shire and sell locally and abroad. Organic food is desirable and people will pay. We would also harvest renewable energy. We can increase our tourism to

our green places.
The green wedge gives many tourism opportunities - for those who appreciate the , bush, need some quiet time, connect with nature for active leisure, dining in beautiful areas. Want to make sure keep the qualities which encourage this. Close to metropolitan area - suitable for day trips. Artists and craftspeople. The area has a strong arts heritage. This can be supported, encouraged and built upon Growing local food - agriculture and horticulture. Would also allow people to visit the growers as an outing, see how their food is produced Dining
Think bigger than developers and I love what each township already is
When there are limited green areas elsewhere, people will flock to visit a healthy green environment.
Tourism leaps to mind. Again, with Melbourne's population booming, there will be more people wanting to get out of the city at weekends.
Opportunities for (controlled) access to the above sanctuaries. Thousands of visitors already come here from the city for a bush experience.
Clean green food production, small scale meat and poultry processing, value added are all viable options for urban fringe enterprises if the regulatory and rates conditions are not onerous.
Great opportunities for micro breweries, wineries, small to medium farming, and other cottage industries to produce local produce.
The current Mayor is so totally development 'the sky will become the new limit' for all the wrong reasons and too bad about any of the Green Wedges.
More micro businesses operating without detriment to the quality and values of the wedge.
tourist attractions of many kinds; allowing dual occupancies on large properties for granny flats or B&B's.
I am surprised to see 'personal finances' listed here. The Green Wedge does not exist to promote business opportunities for individuals. it is an essential part of the plan for the whole city of Melbourne, and we have a real responsibility to do our part to maintain the originally- envisaged function. While there is capacity to use some already cleared areas for compatible agriculture, the maintenance of indigenous vegetation where it still exists is critical. As indicated above, the attraction of current venues in the Shire will be destroyed if the green spaces in which they exist are destroyed.
The area should be able to generate growth and tourism due to its size. Enormous areas of greenery and prospective farmland/open areas.
More business growing in this area in the future.
Tourism and other home based businesses should be allowed to develop to provide employment opportunities within the shire.
Rate base needs to grow to enable Council to function better. Existing anomalies re: land sizes should be rectified. there are many examples of rural land abutting and opposite urban housing.
With responsible leadership there are many opportunities for Nillumbik through this GWMP review to deliver us from the past and take us forward, making Nillumbik a vibrant, thriving and prosperous community for all.
Encourage business and light industry to keep people working and spending within the shire Broaden the rate base in the shire to increase revenue and decrease debt.
With high (real estate) land costs on the urban fringe agriculture activities cannot be justified or sustained off farm income. The term "rated out" was once commonly used to describe unsustainable farming upon the urban fringe. Smaller manageable allotments (rural residential) close to infrastructure, fanning out to broader acre allotments appears to be a realistic solution. Beneficiaries of green wedges must contribute to the costs of maintenance.

Please tell us about what regulatory opportunities you think there are for Nillumbik's Green Wedge in the future.

Continue with the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan implementation.
A reduction in property size near townships along with the ability to build more than one house on larger properties, over 1 ha, for family members.
Embrace landowners not extreme minority groups.
More room for negotiation
Enforced Laws that clearly reflect the value of the green space in this Shire
changes in the building acts to protect the green wedge
Rights for trees creeks and all animals
Reduce Green Tape and make dealing with Nillumbik Council a positive opportunity will help.
Look at assisting people not hindering as long as green wedge is not compromised.
To change zoning in our green areas to protect more of the bush
Recognise the uniqueness of what we have here - take the DEWLP 2030 report and work out what we need to do to mitigate the issues in there. Nillumbik is one of the only shires that could do that. We are different lets exploit that for the good of Melbourne, like we were set up to do. Leave urban growth to those areas designated and leave green wedge green.
This is best managed locally
Any regulation that provides for the safety of people living in and visiting the green wedge is a good thing - is long overdue and would be welcome. Any regulation that reduces the cost of running and maintaining rural hobby property is a good thing - and would be welcome. Any regulation that encourages environmental activists and extremists to mind their own business and focus on their own circumstances rather than trying to impose their views, values and politics on me, my family and my property would be most welcome. The Victorian Government, and local council MUST fully fund any regulation - and fully compensate rural landowners where regulation negatively impacts on them - so far new rules have cost my family 25% capital growth for no benefit - this is not sustainable
I think there's scope to relax the size of the land in the main roads or where the current infrastructure supports it.
We are now well and truly in to the information age. Engage and put all service online, but always ensure you have a back up plan, a redundancy
The green space should be legislated to NEVER be developed. The area will become more valuable for Eco tourism as the years past. Never allow sell off as it cannot be recovered
Council will encourage sustainable communities, villages and businesses that embrace biodiversity. Council will educate the community based on world wide survey of successes on sustainable management of the environment. Council will have a robust long term view and embed a sustainable management plan based on evidence from the global community - not local opinion only.
It has often been argued that as all Green Wedges are in place as the 'Lungs of Melbourne', and therefore bestow a benefit on all Melbourne residents, the Gov't should to at least some extent give special consideration to the finances of these areas, either by special funding arrangements, or even some form of rate subsidy. The Govt (and Council) should ensure the planning requirements within the Green Wedge are 'set in stone' and strictly adhered to. The upcoming revised Green Wedge Management Plan must ensure the ongoing protection of all that makes the Green Wedge green.
Facilitating residents' independence by reducing red tape and addressing the root cause of road issues rather than reducing speed limits. (I am aware that Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Rd is a VicRoads road.)

Preservation of Green Wedge vision by whatever means ensures an enduring legacy
Hopefully this Council will continue to regulate tightly the removal of existing vegetation. Chopping down trees is a known cause of climate change nor does it decrease fire risk as research has shown. If a tree is thought to be unsafe , tree doctors such as Mark Byrne can be of use in saving trees.He helped us reduce the heavy branches overlapping our shed without harming the tree . He walked on the branches & tested their state first.He removed One and A Half tons of branches and the tree is still fine and looks great but is safer. Reasonable cost too. Our present GWMP allows for all these exigencies and should be strengthened if necessary to save our environment. The same applies to culling of Kangaroos -they do not cause trouble .Farmers do at times complain but the Kangaroos can be deterred by various fencing methods . Kangaroos come around our vegetable garden but have never eaten anything - there's a fence. Edendale Farm is Great asset to the Shire & should continue its great work
Flexibility of business opportunities and housing options have to be broadened. The housing project on the old Hurstbridge High School site had some merit but has been completely squashed. Some common sense for community housing must be considered.
Encourage innovative and Eco friendly residential property development with out trying to dictate architectural stiles of a particular era.
Leave Green wedge in place. Don't Bow to greedy land developers
Each appropriate level of Gov. can regulate and provide funds and expertise to preserve and enhance the GW.
Pls see above. Regulation is not 'just saying no'. Regulation can be an educative tool to allow explanation in a cross generational manner as to why certain things are permitted, why permits are required and why certain things are not permitted.
Better planning regulations could seek to limit development not in keeping with the area
Leave the federal government out of it. Sate regulations need to protect the green wedges so that they remain intact and do not become de facto built-up areas full of hotels, restaurants and the like.
Enduring and stronger legislation that does not enable local councils to override planning controls
see above
Improve protection.
Realistically, Federal, State and Local Government must improve regulatory protections in and around the Green Wedge.
Further environmental protection at state level and allowance of appropriate tourism land uses. This council cannot be trusted to fulfill its responsibilities under the act to appropriately protect green wedge land into the future.
Stronger laws needed to keep waterways healthy and to protect locally native species.
To ensure Planning Regulations are strictly adhered to and that all new houses are inspected to ensure they comply with these standards including environmental standards.
To advocate to achieve improvement and clarity in the separation of powers
I think that all Green Wedges should be the focus of a Green Wedge Commission. The issues that come up are similar in each wedge, and it's wasteful, inefficient and risky to land separate councils with what is really a State level problem: Green Wedge management.
Council write processes for all infrastructure work and public land maintenance work which ensure that Planning regulations are observed
Regulation should respond to our strategy when we have one.
The most important thing is to keep regulatory pressure on preserving the green wedge.
Communication and shared visions

More financial support from State Government to assist council to maintain a regional resource. More incentives/financial support for genuine farmers who are trying to be productive on highly rated land.
Part of a bigger picture of valuing and protecting wild places. This is a moral issue on a small scale. We have a responsibility to protect our natural world. It is a hedge against climate change and loss of habitat
The use of concrete ESOs to ensure the maintenance of green spaces.
I would like to see Council adopt and maintain a firm stand and sustainable direction to protect this asset for our own survival and not only think of the short term convenience to overcome pressure from special interest groups. The concept that landowners and developers know what is best for the environment and the Green Wedge is somewhat fallacious and is based on self interest by these groups - let science determine how to manage the Green Wedge not local interest and pressure groups.
State Environmental overlays corresponding to endemic, rare & threatened species (flora & fauna) that inhabit the Shire.
Vote in people from the area that want to protect this area
The Green Wedge if well-constructed can be used an example of what such a planning structure can achieve.
Some flexibility from the council when it comes to permits. We are advocates for keeping our property in line with the native landscape. When applying for small amendments to your property like fencing (appropriate for area and necessary for privacy) the council is very difficult to deal with. However the council is fine that industrial/modern/suburban style apartments (that don't fit with the area and don't uphold Eltham's character and appeal) are being build at a rapid rate in Eltham Town because it is financially beneficial to the council.
The whole permit process needs to be looked at, I don't have the answer(s) but council and small minority groups are really hurting land owners mentally and financially
Wildlife management
See above.
Get the government to support Nillumbik and recognise the green wedge as its greatest unique asset (we only have one!)
There is the opportunity in the future for Nillumbik to get it right and protect the bush component of the Green Wedge. The guidelines are already there to protect. Pressures for subdivision, rezoning, clearing if given in to , cannot be fixed later. Those changes are permanent. Loss of biodiversity is hard to recover.
Needs good government regulations for ongoing management and following good planning regulations.
Making Green Wedge Multi-generational (valid for 100+ years).
Stop further development
Strong control of development processes so special quantities of the GW can be preserved.
Local council to protect & preserve the green wedge - a unique and vital area.
> Chance for local government to confirm support for the concept & reality of Nillumbik Green Wedge & base planning decisions on preservation of it. > Chance to develop guidelines for the type & scale of residential development.
It would be great if Nillumbik could include a boundary change so Greensborough and Montmorency activity / business centres would be in Nillumbik. Although more services would be needed, the rate base would be sufficient to cover these and allow funding for the GW land management.
The wedge are the lungs of Melbourne. These could be an example to the world of how to do it right!

How nice it would be to have been a member of one of the above authorities to say "I was in office when we all decided to protect the Green Wedge forever".
Government have a responsibility to ensure the green wedge provides lifestyle opportunities while protecting the environmental values for today and the future.
Encourage artists, especially Dunmoodin who host people from all over the world every year to stay with them - writers, musicians, painters, environmental, lists jewellers, potters. They bring ideas & cross culturalisation & creative people. Great tourists have important to this area. St Andrews market tourists come and its a legend. Proud food & farmers markets. Greasy zee's all way popular people come here because its alternative, healthy home made & delicious fragrant area.
No idea. Surely that is up to government bodies to investigate and present to the public. They are paid for that
Saving The Green Wedge by maintaining strong local and state government regulation is the major requirementat this stage.
Once and for all adopt and own our green wedge. One regulatory framework with proper interpretation and adequate enforcement. No more second guessing as to what each Council will or won't do. Work with state and federal governments collaboratively to regulate protection and enhancement of the green wedge.
It is up to the Regulators to ensure that people's creative and expressive pursuits are NOT discouraged by over regulation. Have a reasonable, sensible and inclusive attitude towards regulations. Over regulating is frustrating to the populace and needs a down to earth sensible attitude. Protecting the environment is however paramount in all this, as it is the ONE THING that differentiates Nillumbik and makes it GREAT!
re-examining building and zoininf regulations that have been amended over recent years
We need both State and Federal to get on board and recognise the importance of the Nillumbik area, they need to protect and save it for future generations
Develop and Apply a fit for purpose Sustainable Planning Solutions & Guidelines.
Lock up the green wedge. Allow denser housing.
Demonstrate that a simple set of common sense rules and regulations can be used to ensure conservation of the environment.
Before buying or building a set environmental or agricultural plan for there property has been written specific to there land. Which is policed by the council and fined if protocol hasn't been followed.
See above. The existing Green Wedge management plan has been effective in preventing a great deal of destruction, but some development within the Green Wedge has clearly been inappropriate, and Shire resources have been wasted in legal fees, supporting inappropriate development.
Preserve green wedge and open space. Keep it protected for the health of Melbourne
The Green Wedge needs to be protected from further development and the value of it's environmental values enshrined in legislation.
Be brave & take the necessary steps towards sustainable living.
Do not allow the urban growth boundary to be moved at all - protect what we have left which is really struggling. Do not allow further subdivision and start standing up for the environment by refusing poorly designed developments that are contributing to climate change and other form of pollution.
Make sure you enshrine sparse development. All those multi story apartments are wrecking Eltham. And families don't live in them.
Advocate for landowners that they don't end up not being able to afford to do constructive improvement on green wedge aspects of their properties.
See above: less regulation, or at least more pragmatic regulation, will encourage investment,

all of which is currently going to neighbouring Shires.
Stronger building regulations for a start, that a builder can remove trees illegally and happily pay a fine that is not commensurate with the act is shocking. There needs to be a 20 year plan at least for our Green Wedge.
Show case best practice of regulatory controls on conservation
as above.
I hope that all levels of government will see the importance of the green wedge and protect it from inappropriate development, and make sure development that does happen is in keeping with the landscape and the communities that are here.
If our green wedge is not to be swamped by churches, schools and monstrous sheds the size of a Bunnings we need to be eternally vigilant, it is happening now in other green wedges. The in conjunction rule should be re introduced, the minimum site size should be returned to the underlying zone minimum, size and bulk will need to be addressed, the dumping of "clean" fill on farm land will need to be dealt with, repeal of the soon to be introduced Sustainable Animal Industries Policy allowing pig, chicken and broiler farms back into the green wedges without third party rights to object, remove VicSmart from operating within the green wedges, ensure the protection of agricultural land and last but not least look for positive outcomes of the green wedges planning provisions review.
The main regulatory opportunities are to preserve and enhance existing Green Wedge protections
Strengthen current regulations and planning control to ensure the area remains unique in the metro area and doesn't just become another suburb
There is an opportunity to strengthen regulations to protect the GW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Protecting the (actual) very high biodiversity value properties with council support to place covenants on them at no cost to the property owner * Building protection and preservation of grazing land into the Local Planning Scheme * Recognising the local Equine Community as one of the largest, if not the largest 'rural activity group' and rural economic drivers in the Nillumbik Green Wedge
Keeping Liberal Party aligned developers away.
The Green Wedge should be maintained for posterity
Would be great to see the powers that be embrace the horse riding community who only has the environments best interest at heart
State and local council requirements to maintain the current situation could be enshrined into law not changed at the whim of every new council.
Further protection of the area.
Keep the zoning RCZ3/4 so the land does not become fragmented.
Protection of existing very high biodiverse properties. Build protection and preservation of grazing land into the local planning scheme. Recognition that, economically, the local Equine Community is one of the largest contributors to the Green Wedge.
None to stay the same as has been demonstrated with a 'no change' response by respective governments since the Green Wedge was put in place by government.
There are little opportunities with a council that is looking to ruin the condition of the locality. I do not know how the councilors sleep at night knowing that they have ruined the culture and ruined Eltham. They will be gone soon and sadly not forgotten for what they have done.
Control of the potential for excessive bulk and scale of built form discretionary uses Section 2 of the Green Zone and Rural Conservation Zone by putting limits on height and scale and containing built development and associated infrastructure within a building envelope, By this method ensuring that built form is always sub dominant to agricultural and conservation land uses in the Green Wedge.
Council has an opportunity to increase genuine rural property management information for

land owners (eg rabbit/fox control, fire-retardant plant species, recommended pasture species for horses etc) and reduce regulation to enable effective property management to occur.

LEADERSHIP

A. Enhancing the Green Wedge

Become a leader of all GW Shires, or even wider, by committing to a goal to increase the quality and extent of natural ecosystems and wildlife corridors by x% each council term.

This would involve:

Ø researching what kind of data is needed to measure existing ecosystems, how it should be collected, how it should be interpreted, and how it should be used, then implementing it.

Ø promoting the voluntary programs of “Land for Wildlife”, “Sustainable Agricultural rebate”, “Trust for Wildlife” rebate and any other such existing programs

Ø lobbying state govt for funding for expansion of incentives (eg provision of plants, subsidy towards fencing of protected areas) offered through the “Land for Wildlife” or similar programs

Ø organizing workshops and mentors for sustainable farming

Ø encouraging “Open Days” for sustainable farms and related businesses, eg wineries, horse-riding, B&Bs linked to the above workshops, but also promoted to the state-wide general public

Ø organizing workshops and tours for local landowners who are interested in to voluntarily protecting, extending and enriching the biodiversity of remnant natural landscape on their properties

Ø valuing and identifying existing undergrowth in planning applications

Ø redefining the concept of “off-sets”, where the removal of a tree from its ecosystem is “off-set” by planting a tree in a convenient location, isolated from its ecosystem and from its contribution to an ecosystem.

B. Combatting Climate Change

Ø Committing to a goal to increase the quality and extent of natural ecosystems and wildlife corridors by x% each council term would be a ground-breaking LG approach to mitigating the impact of Climate Change

Ø Promoting the range of programs available to encourage sustainable farming would also contribute to mitigating climate change

Ø Council use of, support and planning for solar electricity is to be commended. Support for ‘Clean Energy Nillumbik’ (CEN), a not-for-profit organization, to further explore their ideas for solar on retired tip sites (eg Kangaroo Ground) and/or on water (Sugarloaf) is also to be encouraged. Nillumbik Council is and has been in the past, demonstrating strong leadership in this field.

I would hope that the Green Wedge is rigorously protected from any development that is counter to the original concept.

Nillumbik in conjunction with Melbourne more broadly, have an important opportunity to be creative problem solving leaders that lead the way with vision and insight. It might look like encouraging ‘highly sustainable’ building of small homes on properties. Maybe allow two such small homes on 20 acres with strict regulations rather than one huge house. Assists taking in and housing more people, same total revenue of rates for council, people with similar values and aims to live in and protect the environment plus could serve as an additional income to elderly wanting to remain in the area.

Stronger protection of environment, significant landscapes, biodiversity. Encourage environmentally sensitive way to managing bushfire risk, not slash and burn.

Minimise small lot development

make laws more difficult for other people to ruin the green wedge

There are sites/properties in Nillumbik that are nothing but a slum. Set standards for house and landcare and enforce them.

Opportunity to challenge the framework which allows state level politicians to overrule local

wishes, to strengthen the regulatory landscape so that local residents and council can steer land use to maintain the attributes of the green wedge they care about.
It is very important that the community ensures that the regulatory management of our Green Wedge is strengthened so that it is not degraded any further and any new regulations enhance its value.
Many other countries are reducing the use of pesticides and we could follow this and be an example along these lines. Also, we have a great opportunity to look at other building materials which are totally resistant to fire!...
The Environmental section and staff do a wonderful job. Extremely knowledgeable of the area and assisting Friends Groups with projects all over the shire with Indigenous plants and weed control they are an important part of maintaining the Green Wedge. The Edendale farm and plant nursery are a wonderful asset to our shire.
Major roads need to be built, to allow the traffic flow from places like Doreen and Whittlesea to go around Nillumbik and not through it. These roads should have bike and walking tracks along side. They can provide fire breaks, the flow of traffic will help with cleaner air than stopping and starting traffic. It can provide safer passage for the large number of bike riders that constantly block roads every weekend.
Sort it out - make it simpler - provide assistance and guidelines to entrepreneurs and investors rather than sucking up their time and energy and enthusiasm with regulations on what they CAN'T do.
do the impossible - remove duplication, reduce bureaucracy, reduce dependency, create a spirit of individuality and not over-contort and remove personal freedom
That we have a nuanced approach to regulation that links economic development within the green wedge to environmental regeneration, and social cohesion.
Proposed streamlining of the planning application process should not include changes in Green Wedge areas.
Council needs to be stricter in enforcing planning regulation to stop people flouting the current laws
Set an example of regulation to ease climate change, e.g. planting, small-scale clean energy projects
saving the Green Wedge
State Government needs to strongly support our Green Wedge and its programs. Nillumbik's Green Wedge needs to be seen as an asset and not a liability even with Melbourne's expansion. We should be seen as a Shire that promotes renewable energy, cares for the environment and has a strong community.
Will hopefully remain as one of the few remaining green spaces (ie, the lungs) of Melbourne, If council regulations adequately protect it.
<p>We need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed opinion and objective evaluation of opinions; and to affirm the interest of the larger common good, not self interests. Don't sell out to individual, selfish interests and short term profitability at the expense of the larger communal good and long term sustainability. • To move toward environmental sustainability, and adopt a broad ecologically sustainability-based approach. • To give greater weight to principles such as intergenerational equity, the precautionary principle, 'prevention of harm', environmental duties (of care and repair), 'non-regression and continuous improvement', and 'environmentally sustainable innovation'; substantive and procedural (legal norm) rights. • Improved regulatory tools such as comprehensive, long term cost and benefit analysis; and environmental, health and social impact assessment at both the strategic and project levels, and accumulatively. • Our planning and management frameworks (of land use, nature conservation / ecological

<p>restoration, natural resources, invasive species) to become cross-sectoral, bio-regional/landscape-scale/eco-system-based, which also offer a viable response to the management of cumulative impacts – the silent and pervasive creep of individual developments that ultimately reaches a tipping point not foreseen during the remorseless grind of granting individual approvals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape-scale ecological restoration, including improvement of habitat connectivity across a landscape (this may include identifying and revegetating degraded but strategically located bits of land), and to research and implement best land & property management practices; eg. consider phasing out (hard-hoofed) grazing animals on bush blocks. • Prioritise improved water management - a scarce resource, including the needs for healthy waterways, improved water quality and efficient water use, and encourage 'green infrastructure' (eg. in relation to storm water management).
<p>A recognition of the important place that agriculture occupies, not only in Nillumbik but elsewhere, and appropriate regulations will ensure agricultural enterprises can function and flourish in the area.</p>
<p>Improve environmental sustainability with a sensitive approach to managing our bushfire risk - no just slash and burn. Get creative.</p>
<p>Please keep things as they are, it won't be the same. Look at Doreen and Mernda do you really want Nillumbik to look like those areas?</p>
<p>We have the opportunity to lead the way in environmental legislation. We can show that it is possible to live carefully within the environment.</p>
<p>I am not a bureaucrat so feel a little at sea with this question. But the opportunity might be to draw up regulations that are a model of simplicity and clarity! THAT would be an achievement.</p>
<p>Melbourne really needs to stop expanding. So just maybe Nillumbik could be 'the wall'.</p>
<p>The current GWMP review could produce an improved plan with a stronger emphasis on environmental protection and restoration, and encouragement for regenerative agriculture.</p>
<p>Friends in high places and Councillors elected for short terms without having a planning background can mean wrong decisions can create precedents for further diminishing of GW. I</p>
<p>Better services</p>
<p>Ban damaging pesticides. Permission to cull wild deer, foxes, rabbits. return the natural flora through regulations.</p>
<p>I again have concerns re: this 3 levels of government, all having to have an input.</p>
<p>We need more housing in the green wedge - more people "Living in the Landscape". I have always maintained the zone sizes in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme, in particular, the Rural Conservation Zone, have been wrongly applied and the statistics tell the story. 81% of lots in the RCZ are undersized. Property rights have been infringed. This is a serious discrepancy and needs urgent review. It does not make sense to have a 8ha minimum lot size adjacent to or nearby a metropolitan railway line.</p>
<p>Simplify planning and permits to speed up the process and make it less stressful for applicants. Consult more with experts and landowners and use their advice to form policy.</p>
<p>A GWMP based upon facts, sound planning principles & realistic boundaries between zones. Planners, politicians, panel members & councillors to be made aware of farming & regulations, animal management (husbandry), management issues, rates & taxes & costs to enable realistic recommendation & decisions to be implemented.</p>

Do you have any other comments about the Green Wedge?

Only that it needs to refresh, offer unique living possibilities that caters for creative and older people.
Plenty but who cares.
Preserve it, extend it! Future generations will thank you.
Don't muck it up
It needs to be maintained and protected
The importance of the Green Wedges is not reflected in the fact that they are not treated as a protected areas (not included in CAPAD). There is a failure to provide adequate facilities for visitors to the Green Wedge (eg no camping facilities.)
Love it.
Don't play around with the original concept
The green wedge is an important part of the Melbourne area and as such there should be more government support for the Shire in looking after this large proportion of the Shire.
none
Why change it if it isn't broken? There seems to be a rush with the current council to reduce or destroy this unique area.
It's a beautiful place to live but is dangerous due to the bushfire threat of too much undergrowth and lack of management of that threat. Roadsides are not managed at all.
It is currently a financial burden on our shire which needs to change. The small number living idyllic lifestyles there should at least shoulder a higher cost to offset the impractical nature of the wedge.
The best way forward is to engage property owners too invest time and money into greenwedge with council support.
Please keep it green - do not sell of our green land to make way for more housing - we don't need more houses we need more trees
Do not over develop
It was better when there was less traffic
I love living here, warts and all. I do worry about bushfires about I'm not prepared to condone the slash and burn mentality that is popular among some. I love seeing the wildlife - kangaroos, wombats, lizards, a wide variety of birds, the beautiful trees. It makes my heart sing and calms my spirit.
The area is too wide, and the decision makers are typically people who live in Eltham or surroundings as opposed to the local community
Allowing 1ha subdivision within 3km of existing townships in already cleared land will allow economic development while preserving the green wedge.
Leave it alone
Leave it alone
It is so precious and MUST be preserved at all cost. Once it is gone .. That is ist. There is no turning back!!
Simply that I support it very strongly. I absolutely resist (and resent) current pressures to erode it, including within Council. There will be occasions when pro-GW policies go too far or are burdensome, but at least they will ensure that we retain landscapes and communities of value. Once gone, those things can not be brought back. Better therefore to err on the side of pro-GW.
Nillumbik Council must engage with landowners if they want to deliver environmental outcomes - it astounded me that the previous Council failed to engage landowners (these are people who OWN most of the Green Wedge).
Enough for now.

It should be protested at all costs! Why are we even reviewing this again!!
People who live and own businesses in the greenwedge are here because they are passionate about the area. They operate small businesses so they can work from home, be in a beautiful environment and spend more time with family. They do not wish to over develop or ruin the environment. Just trying to exist and provide for their future and families future
It's beautiful and special and should be celebrated as such. It's not a resource to be exploited for individual gain.
Current planning zones are satisfactory and do not need changing
Yes. It is vital we preserve it. BUT we need to do something about stranded lots in the conservation zones. People who bought before their ability to build was cut off by new zoning regulations should be given the chance to build or compensated for the loss in the value of their land through no fault of their own
The Green Wedge is a precious element of Melbourne, one of the factors that makes Melbourne so livable. It is our Amazon rain forest, one of the city's lungs. It should be part of our national commitment to tackling climate change, and could be an exemplar of this. However, this needs longer-term thinking, statesmanlike thinking - are we up to it???
Bushfire and humans are our greatest threat, both need management
It is a wonderful place for families to live and grow together. We must protect it and keep the standards high.
Leave it in place.
Keep 20 acre min sub division but assess old bush blocks and build on them
Please retain and protect the green wedge.
We are losing it ! And must stop over development, yes people want to live in the Green wedge but in doing so development is slowly taking it away. What I came here for 37 years ago has started being lost over the years
It's a wonderful place to live.
The green wedge is my home, my area and my community. I do not support it's being set aside for environmental conservation as this is not what it is for, and is not what my family use it for
Please keep it
It has limited my parents being able to provide land to us to build on.
I don't feel our council is thinking about the green wedge, I feel it is more about the money, we already pay the highest rates pro rata than any other council and yet we deal with the ever changing developments and traffic .. stop the developments and bring back our green wedge .. hypocrites !! We don't have green wedge anymore
Please keep protecting and caring for the green wedge, don't support the subdivision of properties and large development, we are the shire of the green wedge, it is our responsibility to protect it for future generations, we are the lungs of Melbourne and councillors need to respect that and stop pushing their own agendas.
More protection, please.
The establishment of Melbourne's Green Wedges was one of the rarest of things -- an initiative of a forward thinking government . They continue today because of the commitment and support of many in their communities . Now more than ever , due to Climate Change , this Green Wedge is priceless . We diminish and fragment it at our and our children's peril .
Like all landowners anywhere in Victoria, rural landowners in Nillumbik are subject to normal planning scheme regulation in the public interest. The sooner they accept this (and understand the need for it) the better our future will be. The recent two amendments (C81 and C101) were unfairly maligned by a self-interested pressure group to the detriment of our

Green Wedge.
Once our environmental assets are refuced they will not easily be returned. Once bush is cleared for further housing it cannot be replenished. It is lost. Our Green Wedge is a nice balance of cleared agricultural land and bushland. Please do not allow further destruction of habitat. Please enforce existing regulations to prevent environmental degradation occurring.
No.
Hands off the green wedge. No to environmental destruction. Yes to a living, breathing landscape alive with nature.
We need to get with the times and allow modern infrastructure, duplicate main road...,this is a major hazard. More people live in Nillumbik yet our roads are the same as 50 yrs ago.
Any more building must take into account improved roads, facilities and local infrastructure.
Dont allow any development
Keep it intact and encourafe peopke to suppirt it!
We need to gather expert advice from other green wedges in Australia and globally not simply rely on local entrenched opinions.
Protection and where possible enhancement of the Green Wedge is vital to ensure Melbourne maintains its reputation as one of the worlds most liveable cities. The combination of a natural environment and associated bio-diversity so close to a capital city is almost unique and the benefits it provides are beyond value, not only to residents but to all of Melbourne. The adjoining City of Whittlesea is defined as a growth municipality and that where development should occur.
I like living here and that it's green but I am concerned about my ability as a land owner to make decisions regarding my property being eroded away through problematic ecological ideals.
keep it GREEN
The community feel and the green landscape are what make this town. The Leanne Drive and Main road intersection needs a solution for traffic management. Not over developing blocks. The residential streets can't cope.
I am passionate about the area in which I live and it brings me to tears to see it being developed, our wildlife being destroyed, our roadsides rubbished, seemingly mindless permits given out for the removal of trees, the careless use of chainsaws to clear powerlines by "cowboy" contractors, building ugly footpaths that go nowhere and are used by nobody and the list goes on. Keep the area Green. It's uniqueness in time will be its draw card. Take away that unique green feel and our area will become like everywhere else, ruined forever and of no interest to anyone.
The Green Wedge should be retained , with its controls on development . *There are plenty of Bed & Breakfasts to stay in around us in quite beautiful places *We love living in such a unique place & consider our responsibilty for the benefit of the environment to protect & care for its health and viability
I chose to live here and accepted that there would be some inconvenience as in lack of public transport, distances from schools etc and would hate to see eg: Bunnings open up. So far we have very personal facilities and am happy to live without amenities that some consider essential
It will not survive unless Council actively prevents destructive activities and nurtures the ecosystems that are the green wedge.
It absolutely needs to change. It boggles the mind that it states that the 700 undeveloped properties should not be developed on. Who wrote this thing? Obviously those affected parties were not aware and were not involved in this process. The current document is like a communist manifest of environmental fanaticism.
Love it
make a decsions and stick to it

I believe following the most recent GWMP is a good way to manage Green Wedge ,It has worked well for us . Some would like more freedom to and less permits for building say Garages or rebuilding burnt houses. I dont know if this would lead to Chaos maybe it should be looked at
The best way ahead is to follow the current GWMP-it has worked well for us . Some wish more freedom without permits to build garages or outbuildings or rebuilding burnt out homes .This could lead to chaos but should be looked at.
Finish Diamond Valley Trail asap.
It needs to be protected from pro-development interests - those who wish to subdivide when current policies maintain the 20 acre landsize. I strongly support that this is maintained and greedy interests do not prevail!
I consider it a poor phrase to use because it seems to have become dominated by Green and to have deeply Wedged the area. Some projects for subdivision are approved like in Haley Gullys road despite the fact that the site was below 40 acres. Almost each week in the local paper are properties offered for sale which contain 2 homes on properties that do nor legally qualify and no compliance from Council. Very little of Nillumbik Shire's satisfies their designated classification and Council does zilch about it. Do a survey and be realistic about the classifications and fine/ demolish ALL the buildings which do not have permits. At the very least CHECK them before sales.
Think of the future!! Everywhere will be built up! Hurstbridge will be amazing being so untouched
I often hear it said - "It's my land and I should be allowed to do what I want". As far as I have seen, this just isn't the case in many other countries. Also, in the U.K. where my son lives, towns are encircled by "commons" ... precious land that was put aside hundreds of years ago for the good of everybody.
The townships should be included in the Green Wedge protection zone
Save it!!!!
SAVE AND PRESERVE GREEN WEDGE
Nillumbik calls itself the Green Wedge Shire, yet living in Eltham I am technically not part of the Green Wedge. All of Nillumbik is not the Green Wedge. This survey should have clarified at the start what "the Green Wedge" means
Why is a review being done, when one was done in 2015/16?
It's something special and needs to be looked after well with a balanced approach.
Needs to be preserved at all costs
Don't allow subdivision.
I feel it is essential to protect this space in its current form, for the community, greater Melbourne and the Flora and Fauna. Changing the size or minimum size of lots can only be the beginning of losing a valuable natural resource.
developments affect the green wedge our children and grandchildren and future generations require this area to be protected
It needs to be maintained in a proactive manner, preserving the characteristics of the landscape and biodiversity.
It's the reason we live here.
It needs to be preserved. Without support what makes this area special will be lost
It is very important.
Save the green wedge.
This is a magical environment and a unique part of Melbourne to live in, work in or visit. Please help us preserve that for our children and grandchildren.
Our public spaces and infrastructure of bike and horse riding trails are very important to myself and my family

Lets not become Heidelberg!! Eltham and the whole area is unique and beautiful and prosperous area. Let's keep it this way.
Creeping development into green zones x time = lost asset, lost opportunity, loss to future generations.
It is priceless. Once you lose it, you will never be able to get it back.
Once its gone its gone. Short term gain doesn't justify destroying it.
We and all people who have access to it are very lucky to have it and we must ensure that it is maintained.
No
It's so so valuable and it would be. Disgrace for generations to come to scrap it.
Green Wedges are magnificent. They are a hedge against the total humd.an domination of our environment. They need to be preserve
It is a disgrace that the promised permanent green wedges of 1971 were eaten away by governments of both persuasions over the following 43 years. I am very fortunate that the green wedge officially starts at my back fence.
Save it!
There are very few healthy green environments left in our city - we need to take care not to destroy this one or we will end up as just another urban sprawl, lacking in being able to connect and live with nature and living with more pollution and more traffic.
It should be quite clear from my above comments that I deeply care about the environment. To repair it is costly. Not to grow quantitatively will pose a challenge for local politicians - and indeed all politicians - who do not know how to grow qualitatively, but that is what we need to do. We need a paradigm change, and we need to find new ways how to fund for this change, not relying on direct taxation. What if Nillumbik will not only become the greenest of Green Wedges but also set out into a new and novel direction of paradigm change.
This is one of Melbournes most valuable resources. Once it is gone - it will never be replaced. Protecting it for the enjoyment of all should be a state government, local government and individual priority
It's terrific that a large city like Melbourne has rural and bushland so close to the CBD. This is an inter-generational treasure that can't be sacrificed for the demands of the present owners of land or politicians who wish to appease certain interest groups. We must think of how much more important areas like this will be when Melbourne has continued to expand (i.e. all the way from Craigieburn to Wallan) and 8 million people want access to nature.
The Green Wedge needs to be protected for present and future generations from the kinds of developments that bit by bit will threaten its meaningful existence.
It is a most precious asset, which must be protected and nurtured. I have travelled and lived world-wide and the Green Wedge here (having lived in North W'dyte & now in W'dyte) is the best I have found. Bushland close to city. I used to run my business from home in N.W'dyte, now retired. People come here to enjoy this amazing place & then want to use it to build their dream business, make their dream fortune not considering that doing so destroys what attracted them in the 1st place. The original & excellent plan to have Rail down the centre of the Freeway connecting the Green Wedge(s) to the CBC was the best and not doing that has undermined the social, economic and environmental assets and created the numerous transport problems - too many cars, traffic jams etc.
The Green Wedge is vitally important and must be actively protected for future generations.
Please, please, please let us band together to protect it!!!
Do not let a small minority of selfish landowners destroy what the majority of us live in nillumbik for.
The Green Wedge needs to be protected by strong laws.
Preserve it. Celebrate it. Intelligently develop ecotourism opportunities that don't impact on

look and feel
Keep it, save it and protect it . Ban local private burn offs. This is just another form of pollution and a lazy way of getting rid of rubbish. Who knows what gets burnt in these private fires. The other day, one property had 3 fires burning on a wet day, creating a dense layer of smoke, triggering an asthma attack. In this day and age? Unbelievable!
Trees must be well-protected, specially the old ones.
Please protect it. I don't want to see nilimbik become complacent on how important it is to the community.
Keep it the green wedge. Make it an example for other councils.
ONLY what I have said already
It is the reason we live here and will continue to live here. It is a total package and should not be nibbled away at.
<p>Reasons for protecting Nillumbik's Green Wedge from further development Paul Kitchell 17/6/18 Dear Panel</p> <p>I have lived in the Green Wedge for 32 years. My children were born here and had all their upbringing in this area. I belong to several community groups and consider myself to be a local. I originally came to this area because of its natural beauty, clean air and because it was a wonderful place to bring up children.</p> <p>Previous Victorian parliaments had the foresight to create green wedges around the outskirts of Melbourne for the benefit of all Melbournians to enjoy. The idea was to allow people to have access to natural bushland close to Melbourne, as well as acting as 'the lungs of Melbourne.'</p> <p>For the time my family has lived here, there have been ongoing threats to the green wedge from developers and those who wish to start up inappropriate commercial ventures. I've always thought that these people have no understanding of, or regard for, the concept of green wedges. They are only interested in the area for how they can exploit it for their own gain.</p> <p>It is my belief that natural areas have their own intrinsic value and shouldn't be measured by the potential of economic growth. The Green Wedge is an asset to Melbourne because of its natural beauty, and to allow further development in any way, would diminish this precious value.</p> <p>So, I would ask the GWMP Panel to retain strong protection for Nillumbik's Green Wedge for all Melbournians. We owe it to future generations to retain these few remaining natural green areas close to the city, so that they can continue to enjoy the psychological and other health benefits promoted by time spent in these bush environments.</p> <p>Panel, please don't change the protection of our Green Wedge by allowing more development (businesses, farms, subdivisions). This is what I call small picture decision making (doing it only to make money for a few individuals). There are plenty of places around Melbourne where economic development is accepted and encouraged. I would ask people wishing to do this, to consider moving to an area where their personal interests and business aspirations are better catered for.</p> <p>Rather, please take the big picture view, whereby we consider ourselves as custodians of this wonderful place, making decisions that will allow all Melbournians to enjoy now, and into the future. Make it a place where native flora and fauna can thrive.</p> <p>Regards Paul Kitchell</p>
I would like to see the GWMP responding it all FOUR planning streams - environmental, economic, social and CULTURAL- equally. The actions proposed for this integrated plan should also be included under a GWMP column in all other plans and policies of Council, akin to the Social Justice goals required of Commonwealth policies in the past.
It is well worth saving and we must resist any possibility of it being eroded, despite any economic appeal in the short term. The Green Wedge is an essential part of Nillumbik 's

profile and if anything, we must work to improve it. Retaining a few trees is not enough to maintain the Green Wedge. Property development must be limited and controlled and adequate public transport is essential and must be actively sought.
Biodiversity being destroyed by feral deer and rabbits
Hands off the green wedge. Stop it from being turned into housing estates.
It is a unique and wonderful area. Few places around the world would have the same environmental asset so close to a major city. It cannot be replaced once gone, if developers and subdivision are allowed to increase.
The green wedge needs to be retained. Planning regulations to protect native vegetation need to be strengthened. Recreation and sport facilities are excellent and need to be retained. Recreation and sport needs to continue to be encouraged. No more increases in urban growth boundaries
Whittlesea councils greed has not allowed for the life of the green wedge to continue as it was. To bring unprecedented levels of people into the area with no regard for how these people were to move from A to B causing severe restriction to current residents standard of living is criminal. To also allow building right up to Yan Yean without the foresight of a verge and path to allow people the opportunity to walk/run/ride without risking being hit has forced everyone into cars causing pollution and lack of exercise. This has resulted in airconditioned gyms popping up which defeats the purpose of space and fresh country air!
Concerned about encroaching and surrounding development ala Wonga Park
There's always the risk of "development creep" over time - any considerations to changing the green wedge areas and activities must come with a long-term strategic focus.
Melbourne is lucky to have an area like the Green Wedge and a campaign around its uniqueness and importance to Melbourne should be done to remind people about its value and why we are so lucky to have an area like Green Wedge. Education and awareness is an ongoing commitment especially with the number of people living in and around the Green Wedge always changing.
Please listen to the land holders as they take care of the environment and the land and we should have a greater say than all those in the more densely populated areas that have no idea what goes on out in the bush
they need to be protected and enhanced
Its great, we need to manage it into the future.
I love the pathways / trails in and around Smiths Gully, Panton Hill, St Andrews. Great for walking, cycling, horse riding, running. Rates are very expensive compared to other shires. I pay more than my mum in East Doncaster even though her property value is supposedly double. I have less facilities than my mum. The rates are around 10% of our family income after tax. We have a loan that helps pay our rates. I'm not sure how much longer we will be able to sustain this.
It's very important to maintain the Green Wedge - it is part of what makes Nillumbik such a great area.
Gw seems at high risk of being diluted and encroached upon as weak policy enforcement and developers running rough shod over policy and regulation, coupled with a state government that can only understand development and growth as a way forwards. There are already too many people, population does not need to be allowed to continue to grow.
Undersized lots should be consolidated if possible, and every encouragement should be given to enlarging agricultural holdings rather than subdividing them. Agriculture at an economic scale should be promoted to ensure that the open rural landscape is maintained.
'- Improve the bridge and access. - Maintain the essence of the green wedge; green, natural spaces makes the area valuable and special in the first place. Regulatory help is crucial to stop the creep of urban sprawl into this important area.
Once it's been concreted over it can NEVER be brought back.

Green Wedge = "The lungs of Melbourne"
I am concerned that the current review of the GWMP is "reinventing the wheel". The current GWMP was prepared with expertise and its action plan was independently reviewed by Glossop in 2015 - with a useful list of recommended refinements. That review said (p. 23) "In general ... Council has developed and implemented a well-drafted and considered GWMP. Council is to be commended for the considerable strategic work involved in preparing and implementing the GWMP." I am aware of Councillors' election commitment to review the plan after some people expressed concern with aspects of it, but the review should be focused on the specific matters of concern. The current intention to prepare an entirely new plan is overblown and runs the risk of overlooking much of the good work done before.
The population of Greater Melbourne has nearly doubled since the Green Wedges were set up in 1970 . We need to guard and protect them!
It is important for the whole community. Protect it!
Preserve it from overdevelopment
Don't make Nilumbik a Bend of Islands! It's a beautiful place to live, allow land owners to build on vacant blocks of land. Don't over develop Christmas hills. Allow cleaning of 100mt defensible space around our houses, CFA tell us to clear, Community fire guard droups tell us to clear we need to put human life in front for safety. Build another crossing over the Yarra.
Very important to preserve it into the future, for the people of Melbourne. It must not be damaged, over time, by poor planning, that weakens legislation protecting it. Must legislate, and fund council officers/programs, to protect it into the future.
The following question will be misunderstood by many who believe that Eltham is in the Green Wedge.
Save it
If I could I would sell and move tomorrow.
I have lived in the area a long time and am slowly watching towns like Diamond Creek, Eltham and Research become built up with apartments, road signs, and trashy shop signage. I see Hurstbridge at least trying to keep some charm by designing the shop fronts to look like a country town and preservation of green space. I hope that for Kangaroo ground, Panton Hill, Smiths Gully, Watson's Creek and St Andrews that their towns will also be thoughtfully less developed and the treed environment and large acreage will be kept.
Melbournes Green Wedges are more important to the health and wellbeing of all Melbournians than ever before . Climate Change effects are already being felt . The Wedges are becoming the last refuges of much of our wildlife as human population increases . Weakening of Green Wedge protections is short sighted -- and once again our kids will pay the price .
It is important to develop a long term plan based on scientific evidence and then to educate the community. It seems wrong to do the reverse - where the community determines how to manage the Green Wedge based on their own biases and opinions. The Green Wedge should not be compromised/degraded for the sake of any local businesses that wants to generate income. The Green Wedge should be protected for its diversity of flora & fauna, clean air & water and maintained as a unique area and not diluted by encroaching enterprises. There are many areas in Victoria where businesses, mono-culture enterprises, infrastructure, resort development and built environment activities can be undertaken. In my own case - my income is generated outside the Green Wedge and I prefer to live in the Green Wedge and not mix the two and face a diminished lifestyle and a degraded environment.
I have lived all my 23 years in this environment and have seen it being neglected and allowing destructive development slowly engulf the area. I ask the councillors to be strong and introduce strong regulations based on scientific evidence (not base on biased

processes advocated by vocal, self interested landowners). From my view it's a shame that the previous green wedge management plans were overturned on the voices of a loud and uninformed minority. I hope the current council is remembered not only for zero rate increases, but more importantly and for a greater cause - improving the health of the green wedge and discouraging (banning) many of the existing practices by landowners. I would love to see more native aboriginal practices embraced instead of the greedy capitalist drive for money.
Stop calling it 'green' unless you ACTUALLY care about the state of the greenery. Create an incentive for land owners to enhance and preserve the great green wedge. Currently land development prioritises conservation. Please choose a clear message for your rate payers.
Once the area is developed you can't get it back. If you want to develop - go somewhere else. Protect what we have - it's beautiful.
It is a vital and precious resource that must be protected in the face of ongoing development demanded by self-interest and short sightedness.
I hope that we are able to protect the reserves and open areas here for the wildlife and flora.
We value this area dearly and hope that it retains it's character, open space and reserves for flora and fauna.
I believe the only people who should have a say on the green wedge should actually live in the green wedge
There has already been considerable destruction of our local flora and fauna with particular species that are no longer present. Thus I would hope that we can continue to support the values of a 'Green Wedge' to ensure that future generations are able to experience what we have to date without the ongoing loss of habitat for both our flora and human species.
Balance. it cant tip to much in either way. Common sense, ground level thinking that both preserves the existing and allows for the future.
It should be maintained for the benefit of current and future generations
We have to protect our unique environment
Live in Nillumbik because of the beauty, the trees, the fresh air, would not like to see Nillumbik like Bayswater, but we need to have industries employment, transport
The Green Wedge contains endangered or threatened Flora and Fauna species including Powerful Owl and Brush Tail Phascogale. The Phascogale can be found across our Green Wedge in a diminishing range of existence. Australia has the greatest rate of mammal extinction in the world. Loss can generally be attributed to loss of habitat. Will we be guilty of adding to that extinction rate?
Australia has the worst rate of mammal loss in the world. The major factor in species loss is loss of habitat. The Brush Tail Phascogale survives ion our Green Wedge but is not well represented across Australia because of habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation. Will we allow another species to be lost?
no
I love the Green Wedge concept however we need to keep a balance of both pasture and trees. Many of us have moved here for the rural lifestyle and manage our properties environmentally and with a view to keeping the balance we purchased. Existing pasture is of prime importance to me so that we are all able to keep our horses/cattle etc., the reason we purchased here in the first place. I have no intention of clearing our property, we have sufficient pasture for our needs however I don't want to be forced to return our property to bushland as this will impact on our lifestyle and increase our risk of fire danger.
The rules are already too restrictive placing all the cost of compliance on the owners for the benefit of those in the city that visit occasionally. If its important to them then they should subsidise the cost of compliance with the ever increasing rules.
It is important to maintain it as a productive farming, bushland and recreational area
My partner and I moved to Hurstbridge because of what makes it unique and special....what

it is NOW. I would hate to see that destroyed over time.
Thanks for your integrity & work.
Well only have one Green Wedge. Once it's gone, it's gone! We need to protect it.
a minimalist approach should be taken with the environment including rehabilitation, weed control and bushfire mitigation
Green Wedge is important to the city of Melbourne and must be retained and supported at all levels of government. The green wedge has enormous value with it's bush conservation and environment. Once/If the wedge is diminished a wonderful asset will be lost for now & future generations.
I love living here but feel threatened by potential rules changing as to how I can use my land. I feel that any changes to land usage should be confined to consultation with those who live directly in those areas, not all the inhabitants of Nillumbik. I would not comment on what happens in Eltham streetscape as I don't live there, and I would hope that people who choose to live on suburban blocks in Eltham do no comment on what I do with my land in St Andrews. This is a big concern.
The green wedge and the particular conservation values that are associated with the E12 and the wild life corridor connectivity kinglake NP & Warrandyte state park are a precious "commodity" that should be afforded recognition for its environmental and economic value. It's an ever diminishing resource and once be it, will never be recovered.
Fantastic, very special place with amazing mix of environment artists living / enjoying land and peace / tranquillity by connections with flora & fauna. Also very special to Wurundjeri.
It should remain as a vital part of Melbourne Green Lungs, inhibiting any further development.
Nillumbik has been the lead council for green wedge - with the most comprehensive management plan. I think I tis important that this continuous the current GWMP is comprehensive & well thought out - it should NOT be watered down.
> Don't want to see the area opened up for large scale urban residential subdivision that can be seen in other areas around the outskirts of Melbourne. > Population growth pressure on Melbourne's frige. Green wedg must be careful with how it responds to this & come up with some creative & sustainable planning responses that don't see a "one-size fits all " approach.
We need to value our open green spaces in the green weges around Melbourne not on a they're good for you basis but a real valuation of the delivery of health and wellbeing benefits. One visit per week to walk in some bushland have a cuppa and breathe great air equals one less visit to a GP therefore saves the health system and those individuals actual dollars. I'm sure this type of research has been done somewhere - I'm thinking OK in fact as it's the sort of research they'd do! Let's follow suit.
I'm just a child.
The green wedge is a source of life! Urban development while necessary destroys so much Biodiversity (life). THE green wedge must be safe. Guarded for our future generations! How amazing it will be for children in 2050 or 2100 to walk amongst the Green Wedge with even more flora & fauna it has today.
it's really awesome and I think they shouldn't change a thing.
yes things are over priced
It is cool
Not really. But when me and my family were trying to build a house it toke almost a year to cut two trees on our land!
It is a very big advantage to live in this area. We are incredibly lucky to have a school here.
no because i am just a kid!
I love it so much and i don't want it to change

I just love it (I wish our house had a view though!).
I think in the green wedge we could add more cultural heritage and maybe bring some more trees and flowers in to the environment.
Well I think we should use the chairs that are recycled out of plastic bags for chairs at the bus stops there for we have chars at the bus stop and the recycled Charis are getting money
its pretty heavy man
the traffic is terrible as it is so populated and there is some rubbish around
i hope that it dose not get to much bigger because i like it the way it is!
it is a great place to live.
I think there should be even more stuff for young students. Opportunities to learn young about the stuff they want to do. There should be places children can go to paint on a wall or a bin, something small to really bring in the good vibes. We should also bring in more greenery into houses and in backyards.
No I don't have any commitments except for attending a Nillumbik high school.
As the Green Wedge evolves it must do so not in a n ad hoc manner but with careful, thoughtful planning and regulation.
For 26 years I have driven in & out of Bend of Islands to one of the surrounding townships and I never tire of the beauty & tranquillity of my surroundings. Yes it takes me 20-30 minutes to get to any of those towns, but it is worth the drive. Love where I live. May it always be the same or better.
Created by the Hamer liberal government the green wedge concept has been supported by subsequent governments and resident communities. The formation of Nillumbik in 1995 and the adoption of "green wedge shire" was a community statement in support of our green wedge and the environmental values contained within.
The best way ahead is to follow the current GWMP it has worked well for us. Some wish more freedom without permits to build garages or outbuildings or rebuilding burnt out homes. This could lead to chaos but should be looked at.
The Green Wedge is a precious part of Melbourne that should remain intact for people to enjoy. It would be totally upsetting to see it broken down into smaller blocks with businesses sprouting everywhere.
The green wedge is very important and I really hope it is preserved.
Keep it green. Stop trying to sell open spaces. Have a better plan to deal with the fact that many builders developers exploit the state gov rules re removing trees.
It provides many with joy and contributes to our communities wellbeing
It's imperative that it's protected, Melbourne needs these areas, we cannot be short sighted for the short term gain of some individuals, there is too much at stake here.
The current survey and council process apoears designed to achieve a predetermined outcome of further unwelcome development which will lose diversity forever.
The Hamer government established the Green wedge for the lungs of Melbourne. With climate change as very much a reality the green wedge needs to remain untouched to ensure the health of future generations
promotion of the benefits needs to be balanced against infrastructure needs of a growing population
Please protect and enhance the native bushland of Nillumbik
I love this place and will support its protection.
stop the over development , no more sub dividing
What we have is special and need to be looked after in an educated and informed way.
The Green Wedge must be retained as a resource for the future. Once gone it is gone forever

Land developers reflect the prevailing demise of our society is greed and unsustainability. There is much research about the importance of natural environments in maintaining and improving mental health
I love it
Unique part of Melbourne as close to public transport and accessible but retaining essential landscape.
Our most precious asset.
Other cities have given into development of their green wedges and have regreted it - perhaps Council could learn from their experiences eg London
It would be extremely short sighted to erode Green Wedge protection. We don't really own the land , we borrow it from our children
It will need strong community to survive
The Green Wedge is unique and precious. It must be protected and defended all all costs, otherwise Nillumbik will become just another group of suburbs. Once lost, never to be recuperated. This is our point of difference, this is what makes Nillumbik special and GREAT.
I love living here. I want good safe horse trails.
Re visit the original targets and purposes of Creating the Green Wedge
Any Plan developed must be evidence based and not merely on opinion.
In my understanding and I may be wrong the Green Wedge was originally established as a land bank in the 1960's to slow the expansion of Melbourne to allow transport infrastructure to keep pace with development, perhaps its time to look at the reality of whats happening locally and in surrounding municipalities who clearly appear to be committed to expansion and re evaluate the Green wedge theory which I believe needs to become a little more flexible in planning regulations to allow land owners to reduce their land holdings to a manageable level but still retain the semi rural environment we all love in a sustainable way.
Keep it green
PROTECT OUR 'GREEN WEDGE' NOW! *** NB. The 'Suburb/Township category below will not allow you to enter a suburb name!
It is not "the lungs of Melbourne". We are NE of Melbourne, the prevailing winds are SW. We just cop all the foul air. Melbourne CBD and beachside suburbs get the fresh sea breeze.
I strongly believe that stricter regulations on building height and density should be introduced with green spaces protected at all costs.
I want the Council to stop spreading new housing estates
this area forms the lungs of the City of Melbourne it is vital for quality of life in so many ways. We need to arrest urban sprawl.
Mindfulness of the residents you are representing
Keep it a green wedge Once it's gone its gone
Keep it rational and equal for all. Keep it fire and wildlife safe for people. Make it a place we're people can be diverse and fulfill their dreams but not inflict obsessions on others.
My views on this are simple, I moved here because of the councils stand against clearing and land degradation. I don't support the removal of remnant vegetation and habitat. I don't want the shire to end up looking like the suburban blocks of Diamond Creek. And I am concerned that some of the far reaching suburbs of the shire might become easy pickings for land speculators for future development. I feel the councillors have been too quiet on environmental issues.
Preserve Green Wedge and keep it safe! People choose to live here mostly due to the environment that surrounds us!
Why does this review need to happen now? I suspect there are people in council who would like to see change. And with the 10th anniversary of Black Saturday coming up, within the

period of this review, I think this was done intensionally.
I propose a Green Wedge National Park along the lines of Peak District or Lake District in England where farming and Park values coexist
It is an insightful concept as well as a guideline for the future.
It is with trepidation that I see party politics interfering with the good governance of the Green Wedge. It has become patently obvious that urban expansion and windfall development have influenced Council's strategic direction. We are very, very vulnerable to the pressures of development lobbies and with out a firm and definitive strategy to maintain the integrity of the Green Wedge, it's environmental values, local character and rural enterprises we will experience a continuation of the disruptive and divisive behaviour that has already damaged social cohesion. The Green Wedge is special. It is not a development corridor, it is not a land bank for developers either. Unless we are committed, and our Councillors and officers are also, to maintaining the integrity of the Green Wedge we will lose every opportunity.
Yes, save the Green Wedge!
Yes - protect and maintain it! It's unique and does wonders for the mental and physical well-being of residents and visitors alike.
We Need to Work together to create a system that lasts for everyone.
The Nillumbik Green Wedge a special asset but very gradually we have permitted developments which over the years have been encroaching into it.
No more encroachment
To me the way it has worked for the last 10 years seems to point towards not changing things at present.
The Green wedge is unique - it is not an area of undeveloped land - it is the lungs of Melbourne and serves to be a green break between residential development.
It worries me that this panel will be "selected randomly" YET at the workshop I attended we were told "we hope to have a mix of men/women, we hope to have 50% urban dwellers /50% rural. Doesn't SOUND random to me?>?? And I am scared that those 50% urban are going to have a strong influence on telling us rural people how to manage the green wedge ie our home.
I have lived in the Green Wedge for over 10 years and am disappointed about the scale of some of the developments that have been approved in the area. These have resulted in the loss of vegetation/trees and have impacted the local traffic and the daily lives of all in the area by causing congestion.
Protect it and enhance the quality of what we have now.
It is vital requirement to ensure that Melbourne doesn't get engulfed in housing and hardscapes and provides a relief within accessible distances for people.
Keep developer hands OFF of it, and central Eltham as well. Enough already.
None other that it should be preserved for it's entirety
There's a huge difference between habitat and fuel for Bush fires. Clean up Arthur's Creek and keep the township safe.
NO FREEWAY
Our Nillumbik Green Wedge is special and deserves special care and management. Its management via the GWMP is for the greater benefit of the population well beyond Nillumbik and our visitors trust us to treat it with the greatest respect. Instead our Council is concerned more about the impact on residents who have elected to live in this beautiful place. I believe that any residents claiming disadvantage will in time be replaced by a younger generation with appreciation.
It is imperative that this area should be set aside for a sensible mixture of wildlife, bush and productive use of the land for food development - not wasted on over development.

We purposely chose to move to the green wedge area, away from the inner city, to be in a green environment. To live where people appreciate nature and the environment.
Protect it!
Yes. I am very concerned that there is a strong push for economic and business and tourist development in this area, when it should primarily remain a green area to support biodiversity and a small population.
It is very special and will need careful management to preserve it. We frequently meet people from all over Melbourne who value it and come here for relaxation, and recreation. Random people I meet tell me how much they like it. It's easier to preserve it now than try to recreate it later when you realise what a rare and special thing it was. It can be managed with regulation and State Government support. It will require good research and policy implementation from DEWLP, Vic Roads, Melbourne Water and others. Council will need to be strong and brave and not give in to developers or State Governments for reasons of rate revenue or population pressures. As it's in part about conservation, the best scientific evidence will be needed for all developments such as roads, in order to preserve the plant and animal species and waterways.
It is important to maintain the 'lungs of Melbourne'.
It is too precious to lose. And a big responsibility to protect.
I think it is important to maintain the green wedge to achieve its original intent - to be an asset to greater Melbourne - providing clean air and natural environments as part of the health and well-being of people who live and work in Melbourne.
Keep the Green Wedge philosophy for this area. It is so important.
Please preserve for future generations
The Green Wedge is unlike other developed areas of Melbourne. This has enormous advantages but also it is vulnerable to short sighted, self interested parties who do not appreciate this uniqueness. If someone buys into the area they should be informed of the privilege of living here while understanding the limitations of what can be done on their land - it is not 'theirs so they can do what they want on it'. It comes with the responsibility of maintaining the unique environment.
Please continue what has been successful with the Green Wedge to date.
It is so important to maintain sensible planning regs in our Shire
A privilege to live there. It's not until you travel extensively and live o/s that you realise what a jewel we have.
Prior to 2002 GW's were a concept, something that was talked about by a few for many years, as we have seen in Nillumbik recently, Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge trail, these concepts are talked about for many years by their supporters, with little to no input from those that will be affected ie, the landowners. It is generally a closed cartel that runs the issue until it is presented to council or the State Govt. as a 'fait accompli'. This is true of GW's as is of the trail.
Our daughter lives in the green wedge in the land that my parents-in-law purchased, so it is still family owned and occupied. We live elsewhere but visit regularly and as it is a responsibility of my husband's we also assist in the management of this land.
To many barriers on road sides
It is vital that we keep it for the health of Melbourne
Leave it alone!
Please conserve the Green Wedge as it is very precious for our future generations and native flora and fauna and once it is gone it is gone for good
Keep the green wedge green! Make the roads and stop road infrastructure land. Better zones for high density housing. Better parking seem to keep losing it and there are more cars! Driving at 60 km is not going to save all the wildlife.
Just that we need to protect it from inappropriate development and protect the essence of

what it is.
The Green Wedge will obviously be the target for development, given the great attractiveness of the area and also attention to road (and hopefully rail) links to us in the NE of Melbourne. This natural area including the Kinglake Range and the Yarra Valley help to define the character of Melbourne. Council should carefully (i.e with great care) set limits on development with preference to the well developed principle of keeping such development within township limits. Any temptation to develop beyond these limits must be tempered by the fire risk and reduced CFA protection available to more isolated housing.
The beauty of the area needs to be preserved and protected, rather than it becoming another example of Melbourne's advancing suburban sprawl. It is a special and unique area with natural beauty and has intrinsic value that needs preserving.
Respect it and market it
This is the only one we have, please don't destroy it. The choice is pointed out in Big Yellow Taxi, you don't know what you've got till it's gone! so the the options are preserve it or put all the trees in a tree museum and charge a\$1.50 to see em. The choice is yours, future generations are looking to you, treat them kindly.
Please stop this council ruining the green wedge through self indulgent, short sightedness and gross incompetence
The Green Wedge is the Lungs to Melbourne. We should respect and honour this incredible and far-sighted statewide planning policy, by reinforcing the urban growth boundary where it is NOW, and continue to preserve and enhance the Green Wedge as the Lungs for Melbourne.
It is obvious that the wealth of the green wedge for Melbourne is tied up with its water storage, conservation and biodiversity but I ask that its agricultural value so close to Melbourne be also considered a prize asset.
Dont lose the green focus, but at the same time dont be ruled by the righteous who thing they know better than the rest of us. It is possible to compromise and not lose the nature and of the shire.
The Green Wedge was started by landowners has been looked after by the majority landowners for generations. The constant interfering from Council and outside groups has put a lot of unnecessary Stress and worries on people. Been a landholder I found out about this third hand.
As mentioned in previous questions road side weed and rubbish maintenance
The maintenance and improvement of the green wedge mat be multi faceted, it must rely on working across councils and community groups. There should be more consideration for the improvement of the green wedge for generations to come, that relies on the limitation of development within the area. Self interested parties will maintain that this limits potential, but that is a shortsighted (and selfish) comment and it is the responsibility of the council to condone this challenge to the environment.
Keep the green wedge beautiful by carefully considering whether development is the right step for the shire. Other areas are meant to be strictly surburbia. Nillumbik is meant to be bushy!
I feel we are at a unique cross-road and must take the initiative to not only preserve but strengthen our heritage of a Green Wedge and its biodiversity. We must protect what we love about living in Nillumbik. This does not mean that we live in the past and don't move forward as a society, but we must have a GWMP that is designed to build environmentally sustainable communities and creates opportunities to teach future generations to appreciate and protect our beautiful natural environment. We can be leaders.
Please consider the efforts communities and people have put in to this shire to make it the unique place it is. This shire is about how the environment inspires people to be brilliant and unique. Nillumbik is not regular suburbia so don't allow developers to change it.

Don't try to change it you horrible liberals
The council must protect the values that the green wedge concept espouses or the area can no longer claim this title.
It should be protected from small development. Help with feral animals should be given to landowners. I cannot shoot them but someone needs to be able to do so and it would be good in there were licenced persons who could come and do some of this after consultation with landowners.
Stop rampant population growth and put development in growth corridors. The Green Wedge is the green Wedge?
Nillumbik is a wonderfully diverse place to live where preservation of both open, pastured country and vegetated areas contribute equally to the environmental importance and landscape beauty of the area. They each have their role to play in supporting the natural wildlife and biodiversity and the lifestyles of residents and communities in the shire.
The Green Wedge must be preserved as it helps to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, so important as we increasingly face run-away climate change.
Protect it
An area that needs to be preserved to enhance the lining of locals
We have the privilege of living in a unique part of Australia, let's cherish what we have and pass it to the future generations. I was fortunate enough to raise my children in a safe and supportive community, they had the opportunity to step out of the house and walk into pristine bushland. They spend their childhood exploring and spending time in the bush and as a result have developed a great deal of respect for nurturing the physical environment. I want the future generation have the same opportunities.
The Green Wedge was a visionary piece of legislation which has contributed to the development of Melbourne as a great city and which has enabled Nillumbik to become a chosen place to live, work and visit. Any erosion of the values of the Green Wedge for economic reasons is travesty. Please note - questions 3 and 4 are also not clear
Protect what has already been legislated. Do not water it down!
PALs group seem to be confusing and fear mongering
Stop destroying the green wedge, a few examples of bad council decisions or failures to act by council: Melbourne Water Land Sell Off Totally unsuitable Vic Roads road barriers, (if done for safety what about the St Andrews - Kinglake road - work not done where it is needed but done where distance can be done cheaply the 'advertised' for political gain. Hurstbridge and Eltham township plans - unsuitable for the character of the area. Plenty area road widening.
Stop the short-sighted carving up of the Green Wedge!
Maintaining large block sizes is imperative to keep the green wedge from becoming just another suburban shire.
Please do not destroy the Green Wedge. Once compromised it can never be regained.
Make sure you retain it
It's ours to maintain for the future, not to sell for short term greed. Once it's gone, it's gone forever.
Love living in the green wedge and think it is good if everyone can work together
should do away with it allow subdivision of the land
Please keep Nillumbik green and minimise the ugly development in Eltham.
If it works - as it does for the vast majority of Melbournians then don't fix it. Be aware of the vested interests of people wanting to make a fast buck by allowing development on their acreage properties.

Keep it safe. Forget your economic requirements, they pale compared to opportunity we have to protect what is here.
Stop building revolting grey boxes for people to live in. They are destroying Eltham's character. Surely there are decent architects practising?? And please be pro-active about bushfire preventative works. Btw, the farmers market is great :)
More protection is needed for our natural environment, our vegetation and native fauna and these protections should take precedence over peoples special interests such as: horse riding; trail making; keeping stock and pets; developments of sports grounds; business development; housing development and associated outbuildings; etc.
The Green Wedge is about caring for, maintaining and protecting our environmental biodiversity for flora and fauna.
Stop greedy development
That horse riding tracks will be restricted. They need to be promoted/established. There is an under current of anti horse sentiment in some areas of council. This is an opportunity to instead promote, encourage horse ownership/tracks and trails.
The Green Wedge is a wonderful rural retreat right on Melbourne's doorstep where, as envisioned at its implementation, there is a unique balance between open pastured country and vegetated areas. We should all strive to maintain this balance into the future.
It is essential to have open space, natural habitat in a region that is increasingly becoming over congested.
Keep. It. Do. Not. Dilute it. It's the last significant one left.
The Green Wedge boundaries and zones are to stay intact in Nillumbik. The push for further subdivision and small lot development should not be allowed as per the current planning and government regulations. Enhancement and environmental management of the Green Wedge is paramount to provide for the health and wellbeing of our children and future generations.
Why risk it?
Please do everything and make decisions that protect the Green Wedge. Be bold about its preservation so you are seen as leaders.
This is a unique opportunity to strengthen and improve the Green Wedge which provides a unique environmental and social role in Greater Melbourne. Those wanting to weaken current provisions ought to look at other areas outside these 'wedges'.
The green wedge is a special place, it has an important place in being the lungs of Melbourne. This current council has decimated the lifestyle in Eltham and I look forward to them being thrown out. With the stupid decision to get rid of local parks and reserves to the over population of Eltham with high density living. YOU ALL NEED TO GO, BE SACKED AND HANG YOUR HEAD IN SHAME.
Manage it sensibly for modern living but keep the essence of the bushy environment and 'lungs' of Melbourne.
BUILDING PERMITS NEED TO BE RESTRICTED IN EXTREME FIRE DANGER AREAS,CUTTING DOWN TREES IS NOT THE SOLUTION
I fear for it. I fear that the select overly vocal landowners, (PAL) people will bully their way, to do as they please - which is VERY short sighted - for immediate and short term use. It is destructive. I have not had a voice, as I feared attending meetings - due to the aggressive and vocal PAL people, which include my neighbours. I could not safely have my say. It is the first time, that I feel like moving from this incredibly beautiful part of Australia.
I think that the Nillumbik green wedge is to be understood as part of a system meant to provide environmental nourishment to the city of Melbourne. It is a pleasure to travel through and visit the towns of the Green Wedge each with its unique identity. For myself cycling through this area is a joy.
Melbourne will no longer be one of world's most liveable cities if the soil based agricultural

and conservation values of the green wedges are not maintained and enhanced into the future. Nillumbik is one of 17 green wedge municipalities and needs to take a whole of Melbourne perspective in its strategic planning.
keep it strong- as large as it is and as protected as you can from logging and human harm
The main concern is the over development of infrastructure and residences to meet the growing over population of this state and in particular the Nillumbik shire.
I have lived in U.K. and visited recently. Curiously people there accept the need for, and the regulations regarding dedicated green areas. Here the green areas are seen as easy pickings for the corrupt and greedy
As a global entity it will increasingly be more treasured with time.
I am saddened that governments of both persuasions have not been able to withstand pressures exerted on them and have become part of such a diminished vision. Where are the Renaissance leaders of today? Leave the Wedge alone and help develop regional towns to support the housing required by this incessant desire for growth at any price.
I would like to see it preserved for future generations
Please stop destroying it by both over development and the disregard for its wildlife and natural surrounds
We need to get this right before it is too late!!!
It is priceless. It is why most people live here. Once gone or weakened it is gone for ever. We need to retain and protect it, the lungs of Melbourne , for future generations, not bow to short term and short sighted desires.
I just hope that GW protections are not eroded, it was such a wonderful vision for Melbourne, that benefits so many people and provides protection for native flora and fauna. Surely the need for the "lungs of Melbourne" is increasing not decreasing as the temperature of the city rises with less and less green space and with climate change. How could we possibly undermine this when what we should be doing is reinforcing it? I accept that this comes at a cost, that Nillumbik rates are high and that I don't have access to some of the services that are available in other Council areas.
A good place to live. Need to control high density development while still allowing fairer freedom for landowners.
it needs to be kept intact
'More than anything else: - Remain truly green - Do not succumb to the growth mania, the GDP - a bad measure. - Concentrate on the wellbeing of all the species in the shire. It will benefit the humans more than any material improvements.
Make sure you consult community groups when assessing, reviewing or making plans - eg. Warrandyte Community Association need to be included in EVERYTHING concerning Warrandyte and Warrandyte North/South. Thanks. Listen to the people who live in the Green Wedge and why we do - we want it preserved. Choose people, not money. And look after this sacred space/environment for our children/future generations that love it how it is now. Not developed, not ruined, not horrible like every other suburb.
stop multi story over development. Maintain a sense of the Green Wedge as we know today
The longer the Green Wedge continues maintain its underlying values, the more significance to our national heritage that it becomes, especially because of the rich biodiversity that the regulatory framework seeks to protect
leave it alone and keep it special all too often you see places that are loved to death. over develop it and they lose what made them special in the first place
It is an extremely important area because it is not highly developed. Allowing such development would destroy the very things which make it a valuable asset.
leave it alone please. No more subdivision

its a precious resource that is constantly being undermined through urban growth expansion. Keep as much of it as you can!!!
It's a very clever historic planning policy and the original intent of it should not be lost or diluted.
We are the GREEN WEDGE SHIRE and THE LUNGS OF MELBOURNE
I just love this area and think it is totally underestimated and not fully understood for its value to the community, Melbourne and into the future.
Council should employ more competent officers, place more emphasis on the advise of experienced landowners and specialist bodies and, frankly, be less arrogant and intrusive into the lives of its residents.
That it is worth protecting for our future
Please support it
Just love living here and don't want it to be overdeveloped and then to disappear.
I would love to see more housing built on large 1 acre blocks or larger. Better parking around Train stations, even if it means high rise car parks. More access to the Yarra River, with parking places and walking tracks. A major road built in the area. Increase the size of the miniature railway park at Eltham. More coffee shops with views of the Yarra and walking tracks. We may live in a bush type area, but it is currently used only to provide a bushfire risk.
Thank-you for giving us the opportunity to give our views - well done Nillumbik Council - you are to be commended for this work.
Keep the green wedge by encouraging people to come and live in it and look after it
There is becoming a real social division between residents of the Green Wedge and residents of the newly developed estates in Whittlesea Shire because of the increased rubbish, crime and hoons. Save the Doreen Red Gums Nillumbik need to fight VicRoads at the highest level to save these magnificent trees, widen Yan Yean Road to the west not the Green Wedge side
If we really care about the Green Wedge biodiversity the GWMP should reintroduce the ESOs similar to C101 which included excellent protection for the Yarra River system across Nillumbik. If we really care about preserving our rural and bush landscapes the GWMP should reintroduce the rural Significant Landscape Overlays (SLOs) as per C81. (BTW: SLOs already cover most of the urban areas of Nillumbik, why not the rural areas.)
Keep it green and dtop overdeveloping open spaces. Keep 20acre plus lots. Keep trees. Keep vullage feeling = tourism
I hope we develop a forward looking plan that links environmental regeneration with the capacity to generate economic activity that will provide the resources to enable this, and build social cohesion
Once it's lost, it's gone forever. We have a responsibility to maintain it for future generations.
Do not ruin this precious place through commercially-driven overdevelopment.
Love it
Love living in the Green Wedge
The Green Wedge zoning is essential and should be strengthened to maintain the quality of our environment and the lifestyle we chose when we came to live in our area.
I love living here, want to retain and improve our Green Wedge. Please don't weaken the existing boundaries and regulations
I've lived in the Green Wedge for almost 40 years and raised my family here.
Keep it as it is! Improve the plantings and encouragement of our diverse range of birds and butterflies.

The Nillumbik Green Wedge (and all other green wedges) should be protected in perpetuity, with no change to its boundaries and with regulations that protect and enhance its environmental and agricultural values.
Keeps Nillumbik distinctive and provides a service to Greater Melbourne
strengthen it... don't water it down
We owe a lot to visionary planners of the past who created a system of Green Wedges around Melbourne and a phenomenal system of parks and reserves. It is imperative that Green Wedges are not destroyed by a thousand small cuts. Every development and use must be carefully carried out to achieve the full potential of our Green Wedge.
I live in it for quality of air which I know gives me quality of life.
Nillumbik is a great place to live and raise a family. The communities are strong but many have different views of what Green Wedge means. This is great for debate, as we are not all the same. We need strong, transparent governing, direction and promotion of our great Shire.
It is absolutely vital to protect it, to fight tooth and nail to prevent developers moving in on it, to prevent it becoming subdivided. The suburbanisation of Plenty, of Laurimar, of Doreen ... none of that please !!
Please make an effort to preserve the whole area
The reasons for creating green wedges around Melbourne are surely even more valid now than they were when originally drawn up
This is a special place for those who live here, and for visitors to be able to enjoy close to the city. It should never be allowed to be over developed into the urban sprawl. This area is the front line in the case of bush fires, which once getting a hold of the suburban areas, would be virtually unstoppable when the next major outbreak occurs as it certainly will.
A special and unique place that requires council protection.
We moved here with our family because we enjoy the Green Wedge. However, a level of inappropriate regulation and minority group demands have us very worried about the bushfire threat in summer and autumn; apart from the risk to residents, the threat is a major deterrent to visitors who could bring significant business to the region in the warmer months. An effective Green Wedge must be managed cooperatively, with all groups who live here encouraged and listened to before anyone else.
The Green Wedge is so important as part of Melbourne's 'lungs' as the city continues to increase in size, and thus must be retained.
Leave the Green Wedge as it is.
Plenty more, but would think that what I've supplied above is enough for now - other than to say that I deeply care for the natural environment and the local wildlife, and that neither really have 'a voice'.
It is easy to ruin, and difficult to replace, so the remaining "Green" of the area must be protected. It IS possible to live in an area with plenty of remaining natural environment, and plenty of those who choose to live that way in areas of Eltham, Kangaroo Ground and Bend of Islands have shown. If you don't know about the Bend of Islands, then learn about it please. Here's a good start. https://bendofislands.wordpress.com Most residents here aren't "hardcore greenies" but rather people who understand there can be a better balance of modern living and co-existing with and living in Nature.
The Green Wedge is an important asset and responsibility for all who live in, work in or visit. It needs to be sensibly considered, tended and supported as a vital resource not only for the present but for the future. There will always be competing ideas about how to promote and protect it but with common sense, decency and respect the residents, Councillors and Council planners should be able to achieve a Green Wedge Plan that ideal.
I love our Green Wedge. I want us to keep it's unique character well into the future for my kids and their children too and ongoing.

Too often around the world we see areas that are spoilt by development and tourism that is uncontrolled. The very environment people chose to visit is lost . The green lungs of Melbourne must be preserved. This is not an elitist view but a view that is necessary as our city becomes more congested and our living spaces denser.
I think that it is important that we protect the green wedge, and that the rest of Nillumbik respects the green wedge principles - with allowance for more commercial and residential activities
KEEP IT PLEASE!
Protect the Green Wedge at all costs.
Please, let us keep it green!
Let's keep it green and thriving! and care for our animals and plants. Not sure if it's in the Green Wedge strictly, but I think we should do our utmost to support the Great Forest National Park project.
We must value and preserve it now before we regret it.
I would like whoever formulates the responses to this survey to understand and take on board is that: For the past 40-50 years of our collective history, we have been working toward a strong, healthy and thriving environment based on appreciation and detailed knowledge of the land which we occupy. This long and rich history has allowed the present environment that we see and so greatly value, to develop and become the area worthy of being classified as a green wedge. This pre-existing use and long history of working toward the goals of a healthy environment focussed should be given due consideration before any changes are considered or proposed. The value provided by the existing land use, if proper accounting is done, far outweighs the short-term financial gain to a small number of people. The Green Wedge is not the sole 'asset' of the people that live within the 'Green Wedge' but provides great benefit to the well-being of Melbourne as a whole.
We have fought long and hard to save the Green Wedge from unwanted development, poor planning and land banking. The erosion of design standards in urban environments is also appalling. There is an opportunity for Council to set the bar higher, especially with the upcoming Yarambat Township. If it becomes another hideous abortion like the Doreen intersection the Green Wedge will be irrevocably damaged.
The landowners should have more say on the management of their blocks than residents that live on 1/2 and 1/4 acre blocks. Especially when they live in Eltham and similar suburbs.
Please do not move the Urban Growth Boundary, ever. Please conserve Native Vegetation and not allow take over by current trend of vermin and weeds. Please stop the littering. Please respect Sir Rupert Hamer's work and preserve the Green Wedge in Nillumbik for the future. Please stop the McMansion trend and enforce subdued colour schemes across the shire. Please stop uncontrolled use of lighting that cause offense at any one time and on a nightly basis. Also please ban use of blower-vacs. Once it has been 'developed there is no turning back and the Green Wedge will be gone forever.
Once it's gone it's gone. The thing which keeps it in place are strong, clear policies and strong enforcement of those policies. Protection of nature is at the heart of this exercise. Everything we want from the green wedge depends on a vigorous, healthy environment - clean water, stable climate, healthy soils.
with reference to Q.6 below; people who don't live or work in the Green Wedge especially visitors should not be commenting .
Council and Government are stuffing it up!
Had concerns when the ring road route was being decided. Thankful for the choice of Route A. Wonder if the decision based on cost - Hoping it was based on a true regard for the environment, if not, this dilemma will rear its ugly head in the future.
Protect and reinvigorate our environment. It's the only way we can make true progress.

Nillumbik has prided itself on being the Green Wedge Shire. I am disturbed that the council is undertaking this review when there is no real reason to do so, other than the obvious pro-development attitudes of many current members of the council. What we have here in Nillumbik is a wonderful blend of suburban and natural environments, with a real understanding and appreciation of the benefits for our spiritual and physical well-being. I would hate to see any erosion of this situation.

With the knowledge that the land will be here for generations. We are stewards and enjoy the GW to pass it on in better shape.. more green, more biodiversity, more recreational opportunities.

It must not be reduced in size or allowed to have more development.

Please don't threaten the beautiful environment we live in.

We are the envy of other countries who have overdeveloped, commercialized their environment.

The Green Wedge is beautiful as it is and let's hope we don't change it to much with growth and inference from political and private bodies. A great place to live.

We refer to our property at 1/59 and 2/59 Perversi Avenue Diamond Creek of 24.5 Acres in total. This forms part of the Nillumbik Council, refers to as AREA "C" in previous studies. Of the 44 properties identified in area c, only 3 comply with the minimum allotment size of 8 Hectare.

As identified in maps, the allotments vary in size from 1 acre upwards, with allotments between 5 acres and under. Nillumbik Council have previously described as 'Rural Residential' in character.

In consideration of reducing the allotment sizes of our property, we refer to two recommendations put forward by (a) Nillumbik council and (b) the report of the independent panel and advisory committee (a) are (c) be included within the urban growth boundary, (b) ERZ (2HA) of land in area (c) with allowances for averaging provisions.

The previous studies have identified our property as being suitable for smaller lot subdivision to include property, as it is next door to a closely subdivided urban area.

Is a size that is too small for long term agricultural use and too large for easy effective management.

Are experiencing difficulty in pastoral management, because of issues with adjoining properties.

is cleared of vegetation and in our situation is a "buffer" between urban areas and other areas of greater vegetation cover.

Is zoned rural conservation (schedule 3) allowing subdivision of lots with a minimum size of 8 hectares.

Our property is just outside the urban growth boundary.

Area "c" is defined as being in close proximity and in many instances within walking distance of infrastructure such as:

2 Railway Stations

4 Primary Schools

1 Secondary College

Bus connections to several private schools, Eltham, Bundoora.

Several Kindergartens and Child care centres

3 Medical centres, Dentists Physios, Chiropractors, etc.

3 Emergency Services Police, Ambulance and CFA (and a new Ambulance emergency centre being built).

3 Churches.

2 Major supermarkets within the shopping centre.

1 24 hour petrol and convenience store(Caltex).

1 16 hour petrol and convenience store (Shell).

1 Swimming pool.

1 Hotel.

2 Community and major sporting centres.
 3 Tennis clubs.
 Numerous banking services and professionals such as Accountants and Lawyers.
 Many community services scouting groups lions club etc.
 Close to Melbourne Airport.
 A large netball stadium.
 2 multipurpose sporting ovals
 Town fair yearly.
 A potential railway station at Allendale road.
 Our family has been in Diamond Creek since 1962 and now in its 3th generation.
 Conflict of uses due to flawed and inconsistent planning.
 Neighbours unreasonable and harassing vs failure of Nillumbik Shire Council to recognise that farming is not viable.
 We are providing a de facto buffer zone between suburbia and rural areas.
 Dumping of rubbish from neighbours and along Perversi Avenue and Reynolds Road.
 Real estate agents, neighbours and residents treating our property as private open space and parkland.
 We are unable to maintain the property due to age and ill health.
 Previous recommendations from Council and independent panel have been ignored.
 Our land has been frozen as a Council vote catching exercise in favour of residents that want "their" rural amenity preserved- at our expense.
 Our cattle are incompatible with neighbours dogs that stray and attack our cattle.
 Golf balls landing on our land, causing our cattle to choke. (Lost 2 Cows in the last 18 Months).
 Insurance costs, public liability together with rates exceed any income that can be earned.
 Stray dogs and cats.
 Theft of items.
 Malicious damage to fencing, gates, chains and locks.
 Trespassing.
 Neighbours and the general public use our dam for their own use, swimming or fishing.
 Firewood collection from our land without permission.
 Dust hazard in the summer months.
 Kangaroos.
 Fire hazards.
 Rates in the Shire of Nillumbik are among the highest in the state.
 Compliance management, weed control, poor soils, vermin, supply issues and labour - poor carrying capacity. There are no viable solutions/alternatives.
 Note: under no circumstances is agriculture viable in this area.
 The cost of maintaining larger allotments exceed any income that can be derived from farming or any agricultural pursuits.
 Close proximity to residential built up residential zones. This adds further difficulties to community expectations and demands creating conflicts.
 Essential services such as electricity, gas, telephone and water can be accessed easily, previous testing has proved that and all can be dealt with on site.
 The sealing of Perversi Avenue with costs shared by all Perversi Avenue landowners would be essential with any development.
 Small allotments with averaging provisions and strict building, planning and vegetation controls can be easily maintained, easing the abuse and stress levels that we incur on a daily basis.
 Council would benefit from having an increased rate base.
 Local businesses and industry will benefit from increased trade. Local residents would continue to enjoy healthy living, pleasant walks and could even work locally.
 Widespread planting of local indigenous vegetation will improve the environmental outcome of the area.

<p>Biodiversity and intact functioning ecosystems underpins all human endeavour. Conservation of biodiversity is not a luxury. It is a necessity and essential to the continued existence of humans on the planet!</p> <p>The Green Wedge in so many ways, clearly has a significant and vital role to play in this regard.</p>
<p>More housing opportunities and more employment opportunities are needed. I worked in the green wedge for many years.</p>
<p>We have noticed a large increase of organised bike-rider groups visiting our area and patronising our coffee establishments. Broadgully road in the rural area is very unsafe for the riders, a bike path and work on clearing and widening is urgently needed. Also the "Windy Mile" needs a bike path as drivers regularly cross the double lines to pass the riding groups, and we are unfortunately anticipating a serious accident.</p>
<p>More employment opportunities - e.g. some light industry. More housing opportunities.</p>
<p>Has served its purpose and needs to change to meet the times with a higher population in green wedge.</p>
<p>The concept of activity zones in the green wedge has been a social disaster with high density housing such as units and apartments been built on every scrap of land in the urban areas and family homes on traditional quarter acre blocks been demolished for development. At the same time land of poor farming quality alongside an established transport corridor with all services and much of it within walking distance of train stations is not allowed to be utilized.</p> <p>there has been disappointing lack of consultation from the council with the owners of large properties in the shire who should be recognized for the many years of unpaid work and the financial strain of maintaining these properties which make up the green wedge for which council takes the credit.</p> <p>I believe this is a great opportunity for the council to bring in some sensible changes to ensure a viable liveable shire into the future. After all this is a concept introduced 43 years ago and Melbourne has changed so much since then.</p>
<p>Green wedges are a vital part of greater Melbourne. Careful consideration and planning are necessary for the urban interface and rural farming communities to co exist. There are challenges to be met with needs & expectations of urban residents competing with those living on rural properties on the outer fringes. Broader acreages distant from the hard edge of suburbia need to be treated differently. "One size does not fit all"!</p> <p>Hopefully the appointed panel members have the commitment, knowledge & experience to be both fair & impartial in dealing the challenges that lie ahead.</p>

Youth Survey

The youth survey asked similar questions to the main survey but in slightly different language.

What do you love about living here?

All of the beautiful birds and cute animals.
I lvoe the space, the quiet log way between neighbours love that we can be loud and no one hears us
The scenery and all the friendly neighbours
I enjoy living in an area surrounded by trees and beautiful mature. I also enjoy the community and opportunities I am given.
'- Nillumbik Youth Theatre !! - It's also visually pleasing with all the greenery around and parks and walking trails to just exist in. - Having community groups to meet like-minded people is very much appreciated as well.
'- It is easy to get around. - You get the best of both worlds: - easy access to services - still bushy and green - When I was younger we used to get woken by kookaburras and black cockatoos - Sometimes we come across echidnas - I love the animals - trees, bushy areas - environment
Things look nice, everything is close and a good environment
Everything is close by - eg. Supermarkets, fast food. Nillumbik Youth Theatre is amazing and so much fun!
I love the nature, the trees and large properties. It's a very peaceful place to live. I love seeing animals all over the place.
I love the land because there is so much space and you can raise a lot of different animals breeds - especially if you have land.
I love living in Hursty because when you wake up you can hear the birds calling.
I like living here because of the plants and trees
I love all of the wild life and nature. I like that even though we are a growing suburb we have still kept bushland. There is so many polluted, busy, concrete places in the world and I like that as a suburb we can conserve at least a little bit of nature.
The wild life
I love living in Wattle Glen because I can wake up and see the trees.
All the wild life and nature
I love the scenery to make movies
I love all the beautiful plants and animals. It's great to look out my window and see a kangaroo or even a cute little joey!
The people and the nature as well as animals
'Family / Neighbours /Other - Neighbours - We enjoy spending time with our neighbours - Family - mum, twin, younger sister and our pet cockatoo all live here - Other - it is nice to live here because there are lots of people I know here. And it is also nice to live here because people in general are very friendly and there are lots of things to do here.
I love living here because of the beautiful wildlife!
I love the environment and all the animals and people who call this place home !
The animals
'- Parks – Friends – Plants – Trees – Shops – Butterflies – Playgrounds - This workshop
'- I love the wildlife - I love the trees - The beautiful scenery – Parks – Friends - Everything is close

The community, the beautiful wildlife and the small town yet on the train line vibe. I love that you know everyone and vice versa.
'- Footy Ovals – Hills - Space / Land – Parks - Netball Courts
'- The beautiful sunsets - The hills - The animals - The views - Climbing trees - The bush land - The schools If you really want to wreck our perfect suburb, go ahead, but it will just make everyone unhappy !
I like the wildlife, nature, playing in the backyard and the trees
The trees, wildlife and fresh air
I like playing in the backyard and climbing the trees, it is fun.
'- Trees for climbing – View - Parks
'- The views - The trees - The animals
'- Hills – Paddocks – Trees – Views - Clean air – Countryside - Wildlife
'- The trees - The rolling hills - The beautiful sunsets - The animals
'- Football ovals - Netball courts - Trees
'- I love the beautiful sunsets/views - The wildlife - The hills - The big paddocks - All the nature - The farms - The bush (that looks like forests)
The view and all the kangaroos
'- Football ovals - Netball courts – Parks – Hills – Grass - Space / Land
'- Trees – Wildlife - Dirt bike tracks - Fresh air
'- Open space – Animals - Cool places
I love being able to walk anywhere I want, the new playground down near Fergusons Paddock and the friendly community.
I love how in our community all of us kids have big properties that we can do what we want.
'- I love the views and the countryside - I love being able to go on walks and ride my bike - I really enjoy the fact that there's very little traffic - I like the animals
The trees and the animals
Lots of land and close to nature
I like the trees and the nature here in Nillumbik
The wildlife that visit my place.

What type of things don't you like about living here?

The traffic is too much when I walk to school.
people hooning, dropping rubbish out of their cars
Lack of public transport
The lack of transportation past Hurstbridge.
Public transport isn't very accessible, especially on weekends. Trains aren't frequent past Eltham and buses don't assist in going around Nillumbik easily. Also, too much money is invested into sport and not enough into arts and humanities.
'- The traffic - Going around in circles looking for a car park - The decline in flora and fauna - All the urbanised blocks being crammed into one property - The green wedge turning grey
Nothing much really. All good, I came from Mill Park
So many schools
Where I live is far away from pretty much everything
'- There is not a lot of transport. - There aren't any sporting facilities that are in my town so I have to travel to the closest sporting clubs.
The amount of traffic
I don't like that some people want to take away bushland for homes and shops.
I don't like finding dead possums on the street
It rains too much
That it keeps getting more populated, meaning more apartments and town houses are being built which means the trees need to be chopped down.
There is no-one my age on my street
Bullies, kangaroo poo and rabbit poo
Traffic can be high. Though there is no major reasons to dislike this area. On our street a few dodgy electric issues that haven't been repaired but that does not reflect the community as a whole. Overall I don't dislike anything major in our area.
I don't like people cutting down trees
Pollution
Cutting down trees
'- Busy roads - The trains – Trash – Noise - Cutting down trees
'- Littering – Pollution - Cutting down trees
The traffic that goes over the bridge, and the new houses they built near the vet.
'- Traffic - Smoking
'- How busy the roads will get - More animals will get hit on the roads
The traffic and pollution
Neighbours bursting out loud music
Pollution and traffic lights that take forever to turn green.
'- Population is getting too big – Infrastructure – Traffic - Neighbours
'- The internet, because it sucks ! - Roads
'- Roads - Car exhaust fumes – Traffic - Train rail - All the trees are slowly getting cut down
'- The smoking - The people that chop down trees that are close to the power line - The train line is really slow
I don't like how there are no bus services in Christmas Hills
If there were more houses around me
'- Traffic - Smoking

I don't like speed cameras and pollution
No bike paths so cyclists ride in the middle of the road
Too many kangaroos (I see a lot dead on the side of the road - we need smarter kangaroos).
How we have all of our great state forests but we still require a licence to ride our motorbike in them and some people don't have big properties.
'- I don't like the fact that we are not allowed to kill snakes, especially when they threaten us. - Cyclists should ride on the paths, not on the road.
Way too much pollution in rivers / lakes and around in yards and stuff.
It gets so smoky that I can hardly breathe when I play sport in our community (especially in Yarrambat - it's disgusting!)

What ideas do you have that would make living here great?

Look after the trees
leave things as they are, nice and quiet as that's what we love
More public transport facilities
Fast public transport to "rural" areas.
Build a theatre for Nillumbik Youth Productions Inc. !! In all seriousness, easily accessible performance spaces would be a great asset to the community and small theatre groups in Nillumbik.
'- Try to preserve the natural environment - Keeping area diverse - Create areas to encourage animals - Encourage people to walk places more / carpool / use public transport instead of driving everywhere - Promote sustainability - social, economic and environmental - Event ??
Build a theatre, good idea!
Need a theatre
Don't cut down trees! Keep it natural, it's already great !
'- More public transport and more affordable - Sporting facilities to keep our community more involved
Greyhound slip track and off lead greyhound park
'- Conserving our natural environment - Banning litter
Stop littering !!!
Keep all the nature reserves
The movies and people
'- No littering - I don't like all the dead kangaroos on the road
Owning my own horses
I don't have realistic ideas of what could be done here but there seems to be enough parks here. Maybe less eco solar panel spaces people.
You could save wildlife and not litter.
Plant more plants
More wildlife
'- More bins - More crossings - Less trains - More trees - Less noise
'- More bins - More trees - More parks
GOOD cleaning in public toilets. More art / murals / street art / window art
'- Instead of putting an extra lane in one way on the Warrandyte bridge, put two lanes going

either way. - Ban smoking - Ban shark fishing - Hurry up with making the adventure playground - Re-build the adventure playground in WOOD !!
'- Make progress with the adventure play ground. - Bus services in Christmas Hills - No more houses or roads! It will just make our suburb more crowded and nobody wants that !
Stop cutting down trees to make houses
More food and shops near my house
Stop knocking down trees to build houses
'- Two lane Diamond Creek road - Make progress to the Adventure Playground
'- More trees ! - Less freeways or highways
'- Make progress on the adventure playground - Don't cut down all of the trees
Fixing the adventure playground
'- Everyone quits smoking - Making the train line two ways - No chopping down trees - Not getting McDonalds in the places that don't have it and getting rid of the one that are around. - Hurry up with the adventure playground and build in wood !
'- Get a new adventure playground (as close as you can to the original) - We need bus services in Christmas Hills - We need a café in Christmas Hills
To rebuild the adventure playground faster
'- Make progress with the Adventure Playground - Rebuild it as close to the other one as you can using WOOD !! - Ban smoking
We should not cut down so many trees
Off leash greyhound park and greyhound slip track
That if one of your parents go riding with you and they have a licence, you could go out to the state forest and have fun on your dirt squirter.
Quickly fix the adventure playground in Eltham
Help more wombats with the mange
Stop people burning all sorts of stuff in their yards as it makes people sick. Also the wood fire burners. Poisoning the grass on sides of roads just means poisons get into the waterways - the EPA showed this at Whittlesea Show and I can't believe Nillumbik uses poisons!

Stories

The community was invited to post stories about their experience of the Green Wedge, (which could include photos), on the Participate Nillumbik site.

Save Our Green Wedge

Hello, I understand that some landowners think they should be able to do anything they like on thier land but I don't really agree. Who looks after the animals and all the biodiversity required to maintain a healthy eco-system if this was the case? My neighbour has a fireworks party every year that scares all the local pets and wildlife half to death but there isn't even rule in place to prevent that. The Council now say it may take a huge participation program to even look at resolving that issue. The Green Wedge has to be about more than a group of individuals because the most important aspects of it aren't individuals. It's the Councils job to protect it from self interest not use excuses like "economic development" and "personal finances" to ruin it. What I'm learning is that you have to fight for the voicless as "economics" will send them to oblivion. Thanks

Baking the Green Wedge

When I make a cake, I first visualise what might be, the friends with whom I might share, a future vision of camaraderie. I go to the recipe, assemble the ingredients, lay them out, count them, read again the instructions.

Watching now that the chemistry is kept controlled through heat and time, for excess of the former can be devastating, the cake usually comes out as a close approximation to that which I had foreseen.

When it comes to icing, I am frugal, for a good cake is sufficient enough unto itself. I do frequently though, add a sprinkle of roughly ground almonds, they seem to enliven the cake somehow. At the centre, I arrange with some diligence, seven whole almonds, their pointy ends facing inward denoting the centre of things, a self-reverential circle of almonds, but representing the fragmented pieces of their kind.

In a similar way, I use the same process when assessing land systems for clients. I first look at the ingredients, the bones of the land. The way the drainage lines run, for they are vital to the future health and prosperity of the land parcel, similar to the veins and arteries within ourselves, vital for the continuation of healthy life. Next, I look at the ridge-lines, their fragile grip always exposed to the climate, magnifying rapidly, alteration of any kind. Their position at the top of things means a cascade effect with both exposure and slope a twin curse, resultant damage from bad planning, or bad practice, affecting the landscape amenity for kilometres, as the ridges and spurs remain prominent in the landscape, while the run-on downslope works invisibly at first, but frequently destructively.

Of course, buffering of these changing variables is through the vegetation. Remarkably, the vegetation clings to what it knows in the face of ignorance and adversity. For some sites are so difficult, that a conjunction of specialisation occurs and a rare community persists. Strangely, this is usually subtle and un-noticed, considered as low-quality land by those who see the dynamism of enterprise as the measure of success. Thus, some of the cake's ingredients can be either left out or overlooked.

So how do we bake it? Well, the instructions say there are overlying Planning provisions, designed to allow us to do a certain number of things, but not anything we like. Why is this? Like too much mixing of the cake, things can go wrong and thus, the cake can be lost.

Over the last forty years an inventory of the State's biological assets were taken (REF) . Many biologists that I worked with diligently analysed and recorded what they found all over the State. And then, when the inventory did not seem to alter the rapidity with which change was overtaking the assets, the biologists started recording the losses. There were startling results.

That poor understanding of the ingredients of the land, then unwise use, can be seen in the monumental changes to a vast ecosystem, the grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain. Once the community extended as a giant, unbroken system of grassland, wetland and biological specialisation that worked as a single, stabilising entity from Whittlesea to Portland over 22,000 square kilometres in area. Now all that remains is less than 1% of its original. So reduced are the grasslands that this ecosystem is now listed as nationally endangered. How could this be? Such a vast resource almost gone?

As with many other ecosystems in Australia, change has brought catastrophic decline. The vegetation is the element within which ecological processes play out, the living web. Lose or alter the vegetation, then watch species disappear, both plants and animals, replaced in turn by species pre-adapted to a changed or changing environment, the species we usually call pests.

When I looked last, a very comprehensive assessment of many of the natural assets of the Green Wedge had been done at a landscape scale by an environmental consultancy in 2014 (Abzeco, 2014). The company read and understood the ingredients of the Green Wedge cake. The detailed and mapped results are available and should be included in any examination of the Green Wedge.

So, these are the ingredients, what does the recipe say? What rules govern the cooking?

The rules that allow us to live in the land with some expectation of continuity are an amalgam of accumulated knowledge of the natural world, our imported knowledge of agriculture, honed in part by success or otherwise, a set of laws that circumscribe how we actually live together, as well as a sub-set of rules called the Planning provisions. The Planning provisions are a kind of crystal ball in which we project all possible futures of the land, guiding us away for the most part, from those possible futures that will result in changes so profound and destructive that the cake is lost. Without Planning provisions we are left, in baking terms, only the selections of pre-prepared cakes offered in the frozen shelves of the supermarket.

Government instrumentalities beaver away, usually unseen, assessing and re-assessing the direction of decision outcomes. One recent assessment was the

Statewide Assessment of Public land (*Final Report*.VEAC, 2017). Public land is managed with a more stringent set of criteria than private land, as continuity is normally the primary aim, for example the maintenance of water catchments. Changes in Public land are like a cooks thermometer. If the baking of the cake is not going well, the thermometer is about the last signifier of deterioration. The cake is already charring by the time the cook is notified by the thermometer. Deterioration of Public land is the crumbling remainder of a decaying cake. The thermometer is saying that the damage on other land has occurred to such an extent that its influence has crept in to the most stable of land. These are not good signs. Not good for the land, not good for the cook and not good for the expectant gourmands.

In the VEAC 2017 report, the cook's thermometer was edging toward danger. Page 24 of the report summarises:

4.1.2 Pressures on natural ecosystems

Major continuing or emerging pressures on natural ecosystems in Victoria since the LCC's

assessment in 1988 include habitat fragmentation and degradation, resulting in part from increasing population, and climate change.....

Habitat degradation

Victoria is the most cleared of all the Australian states, with about half of the original vegetation cleared, including 80 per cent of the cover on private land. Continued degradation of remaining native vegetation is currently the major threat to biodiversity on public land. Climate change adds to and interacts with existing stressors, such as vegetation clearing and introduced pests and weeds, that have already contributed to the decline in Victoria's biodiversity.

VEAC's Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation (2011) found that within Victoria's fragmented landscapes (79 per cent of Victoria) the more cleared bioregions tend to have a lower proportion of their native vegetation on public land. The patches on public land are scattered across thousands of public land sites, including roadsides. A whole of landscape approach to protection of biodiversity is critical in these bioregions.

There are two further ingredients to the Green Wedge cake. Neither static, both little understood and both have profound influence on our co-habitation in the Green Wedge. These ingredients are fire behaviour (not fire risk) and grazer density. These are interlinked for the most part, but not entirely. Their understanding is a work in progress. Unfortunately, their understanding appears to be far from possible as the subjective interpretation of these elements and the overarching Mother-care of the State do not provide a forum in which understanding or education is advanced.

The first State-wide assessment of kangaroo populations has recently been completed: (https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0013/122035/Kangaroo-survey-fact-sheet-for-web-final.pdf).

It turns out that currently, the greatest kangaroo densities overlay or are just beyond the urban crescent of Melbourne. In these areas, including the Nillumbik Green Wedge, densities of nearly 50 kangaroos per square kilometre are calculated.

'Told you so' say the agriculturalists, 'lovely' say the welfarists, 'repairs' say the car industry, 'premium rise' think the insurers, 'safety' says the RACV. The fire authorities say nothing for what has it to do with them. Well fifty kangaroos per square kilometre reduce the edible biomass to about ½ a tonne of fine fire-fuel through the summer, reducing the severity of fire behaviour substantially. At this density of kangaroos however, the natural vegetation begins to be damaged though selective grazing with loss of grassy and herbaceous components, as well as the loss of seedlings of the coming generations.

So, although the risk of fire on private land largely remains in the ambit of human activity, fire behaviour is a landscape-sized issue, influenced by patterns of land use, the standing biomass, the grazer population and the medium and short-term expression of the climate. Somewhere in among all these considerations is a recipe with which the Green Wedge might remain as common wealth.

As a society, the nuts on the cake, we are fragmented in a collective understanding that would allow any benefit from wise land management to come through in a long-term way. I would say that with our present collective understanding of the ingredients of the Green Wedge, we are unable to bake a cake that will sustain us other than through instant gratification. There is inherent danger in a socially-based re-consideration of the Management recipe, given the understanding we do have has taken years to accumulate and is so poorly integrated that we cannot see beyond the ideology of the immediate. If this is so, lean and vexing years lie ahead, for a bad process will remain a destructive

legacy. So reconsidering the Green Wedge Management recipe could be both necessary and apposite. To do so without due diligence is an abrogation, as the recognition and direction of the GWMP exists already as a reasonable working model. It can get better, as long as everyone has the same cake in mind, with a recipe for managing the GW that ensures environmental care as the precautionary principle.

Bon appetite.

B Walters

Cottles Bridge

Love living in Nillumbik? ...So do I.

I've lived here for 20 years now so I'm still a relative newcomer, both to the Shire and to Australia. In that 20 years we've moved from Eltham to St Andrews, become 'empty nesters' and witnessed huge changes in the character of the Shire. We were in St Andrews on Black Saturday, experienced fighting the fire and have lived with its aftermath. Working in recovery roles following the fire I was struck by the resilience, community spirit and love of country. This is to be found not only in fire-affected townships, but in Nillumbik as a whole.

Over the years I've take the opportunity to learn about Nillumbik, its fauna and flora, its agriculture, its history and its culture. I've taken courses, volunteered, attended art shows and book launches and tried to give back to my community wherever I can. So yes, I love living in Nillumbik and if you're reading this you probably do too. Now Nillumbik needs our love, our commitment and our attention more than ever – but first some background.

A chance encounter with a neighbour in the 1990s led to the two of us founding a 'Friends of' group, Friends of Swipers Gully. Like the many other Friends groups in Nillumbik, each month (or more!) we'd get together and undertake environmental rehabilitation work on our little patch of creek, river, paddock or in our case, gully. Currently there are 22 such groups operating in Nillumbik. I learned so much from locals – what bird species inhabited the gully, the fact that sugar gliders lived there. I saw my first orchid (a nodding greenhood) and learned about weeds, erosion and revegetation. I was blown away by the level of support, commitment and enthusiasm of the Council's Environment Officers who turned up in all weather and at the weekend with equipment to assist us. They gave advice, shared their knowledge, got their hands dirty and even took on the BBQ.

Moving out to St Andrews, I joined Landcare. Same story – knowledgeable committed locals, lots of support from Council and other agencies, lots of great work being done. What I found interesting about our Landcare group was the way it crossed property types, from vineyards, through smaller blocks in the township to bush blocks like ours. We all had differing views of the environment and what it is – and we all worked together to improve that environment.

Following the 2009 bushfire, the fireaffected Nillumbik Landcare Groups did amazing work, along with Council, Melbourne Water, Parks Vic and other agencies. This led to a Nillumbik Landcare Network for all 11 Nillumbik Landcare groups being established, along with Stringybark Community Nursery, which grows local indigenous plants. Other environmental groups in Nillumbik include the Nillumbik Environment Action Group, Warrandyte CAN (Climate Action Now) and the Yarra River Keepers Association.

Another thing I learned over the years was that alongside the more hands on 'Friends of' and Landcare type groups were other incorporated organisations who cared about Nillumbik and the fact that it is part of the Green Wedge*. There was the Green Wedge Protection Group, the Eltham Gateway Action Group, Warrandyte Community Association and Friends of Nillumbik. At first bemused by the need for such groups, I came to realise that a big part of

their role was, like Don Chipp and the Democrats, one of 'keeping the bastards honest'. These groups resisted calls for inappropriate or major development, put in submissions to Council and State Government, researched planning laws and supported residents, all to keep Nillumbik's unique character and help it live up to its name of 'The Green Wedge Shire'.

Here in St Andrews in the last few years, I have been encouraged by the number of younger families coming to live in the area. Talking to them, it is apparent that what drew them here was the environment - the bush, the tall forests, the hills, the paddocks, the creeks and the community. Many of this younger group, despite family commitments, are volunteering with Landcare, setting up food swaps, running playgroups and generally making our place a better place to be.

However – and here's the rub – many of them are unaware of the role groups like those mentioned above have played in preserving what is left of this precious landscape from the gradual whittling away of our Green Wedge. These groups still have a vital role to play. Younger/new residents may not have lived through countless Council elections with 14+ candidates per ward and the ugly 'us vs them' debates that rage, frequently with the term 'Greenie' used as a pejorative with an accompanying sneer. For their part, these groups have been poor at recruiting and enthusing younger folk and planning for succession; rather, they rely on the same stoic workhorses who care.

We now have the situation where many campaigners are suffering from burn out and may not be in a position to continue their work – and the next few years are crucial. We currently have a Council that has allowed a development involving the loss of 700+ trees for ONE house go to VCAT, despite Officers NOT recommending its approval. This is a scary precedent – this week Kangaroo Ground, next week St Andrews? Panton Hill? Other rural conservation zone areas? The developer even tried going to the Supreme Court to avoid VCAT.

Now community groups and neighbours are faced with the prospect of researching and arguing their case against a wellpaid barrister and/or raising funds for their own barrister. We have a review of the Green Wedge Management Plan for Nillumbik coming up, with the process and members of the Community Advisory Group on Environment and Sustainability yet to be confirmed. There is also a review planned for the Municipal Strategic Statement. All of these processes have the potential to destroy and/or alter forever the reality of the Nillumbik we see now. We have recently had the loss of many senior officers at Council who were instrumental in making the Shire the place it is today. I can only speculate as to morale at Council. And then we have the North-East Link with its 4 proposed corridors, three of which will result in significant environmental damage to swathes of Nillumbik.

So, this is a call to all you young (and of course not-soyoung!), energetic and committed people in Nillumbik who love our environment and love living here - get involved! Attend Council meetings, ask questions, nominate for committees, join a group, subscribe to a mailing list, have a look at the debates on Facebook. Whatever you do, don't take the Nillumbik you see today for granted.

*The Green Wedge Shire is another title we tend to take for granted. The concept of the Green Wedges was initially developed by the Melbourne Board of Works, with the wedges acting as a buffer zone between growth areas and acting as the lungs of Melbourne. A far sighted Hamer Government in 1971 had them put aside as open space, to be preserved for future generations.

Some contacts for further info.....

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/greenwedges>

<https://chuffed.org/project/warrandyte-community-association-green-wedge-protection-fund>

<http://www.gwc.org.au> (also on Facebook)

elthamgatewayactiongroup@yahoo.com.au

NEAG has a Facebook page

<http://www.friendsofnillumbik.org/home> (also on Facebook)

<http://yarrariver.org.au>

[http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Environment/Help-improve-yourlocal-](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Environment/Help-improve-yourlocal-environment/Friends-groups)

[environment/Friends-groups](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Environment/Help-improve-yourlocal-environment/Friends-groups)

<http://warrandyte.org.au> (also on Facebook)

<https://www.vcat.vic.gov.au>

Sue Aldred –St Andrews

A little piece of paradise -- Round the Bend Conservation Cooperative in the Bend of Islands

My husband and I moved out of suburbia into the Round the Bend Conversation Cooperative in February this year. We absolutely love living out here among nature in the native bush/woodland setting. To wake up to the sounds and sights of crimson rosella, chough, raven, scarlet robin, magpie, butcher bird, wren, spotted pardoleet, striated pardoleet, kookaburra and many many more bird life is such a privilege, and a joy. I often wake up to wallabies on my deck nibbling at my pot plants. A small price to pay in exchange for their presence in such close proximity to my window. Occasionally, a family of koalas will make their appearance up in the gum trees.

At night we have sugar gliders outside in our front yard. Possums, phascogales, antechinus, wombats and owls are some of our regular night visitors.

To have the bush at our doorstep is such an amazing experience. Every single day, I am in awe and I am full of gratitude to be living where I am living. It is not something I take for granted knowing how fragile the eco system is and it has taken such a concerted effort of the good folks at BICA and the RTBCC working together over several decades to preserve this whole area known as the Bend of Islands.

The green wedge provides habitat to many of these native animals in addition to offering them a corridor to move about from Kinglake to the Dandenong and beyond. It is for these reasons why it is vital that the green wedge be preserved and protected from development and the encroachment of urban growth.

Thank you.

Excessive clearing leads to



Sharing our backyard

When we first moved into our home in North Warrandyte, we were bewitched by the sounds of the bush. The mornings would be heralded by the raucous laughter of Kookaburras, the nights filled by the croaking of frogs and the hooting of owls. As we listened closely we learned to identify the many different species, the members of this multi-talented bush choir. One was the Powerful Owl. Its deep and haunting hoot-hoot distinguished it from the Boobook and the Barking Owl. A solitary Powerful Owl male would call longingly night after night. Eventually a female responded.

We caught sight of the pair some days later, and snapped a photo of them sharing a meal of ring-tailed possum (see photo). They had taken up residence in the hollow at the top of an old manna gum on the river bank. The hollow had been home for Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, but the large owls had now taken over. We kept a watch on the nest hollow for weeks and were thrilled to be watching when a little owlet finally emerged, covered in fluffy, white juvenile feathers. A week later another owlet appeared. A week later they had moved on.

We were overjoyed to know that these beautiful creatures had raised a family in our backyard. But then we thought ... we had taken up residence in their backyard.



Chough Wars

Although not endangered - indeed they are plentiful - I write about choughs because for me they epitomize the bushland areas of our Green Wedge. We appreciate being visited regularly by the kangaroos, wallabies and echidnas; the ringtail possums, sugar gliders and a wide variety of birds make their homes here, but the chough has a special place in our hearts.

The summer of 2016-17 saw an unusual intensity in the chough wars. We had wings flapping, stand offs and feathers flying, all accompanied by a screeching that is loud enough to raise the dead.

We love our choughs. That said, we don't try to make pets of them but respect them for the wild creatures they are. They are beautiful birds with engaging personalities. Collectively they are very entertaining. They are funny, busy, amiable, caring and sharing but don't be misled; they can be ferocious if their young or territory are threatened.

The white winged chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphos*) is a bit smaller than a raven but can be up to 47cm long. It is all black until you see it in flight when the white underwings are visible.

Usually in groups of four to ten, sometimes more, they are also known as bush chooks as they spend a lot of time foraging on the ground. They are very family oriented and communal with all members of the group, including the previous batch of young, helping to raise the new chicks. Many a summer's day is punctuated by the cries of the chicks constantly demanding to be fed. All members of the group oblige.

Choughs are amazing architects building their mud and grass pudding bowl nests high up in a tree. Fresh materials may be added each year though they do not always confine themselves to a particular nest. This year I puzzled over the ragged condition of the coconut fibre lining of a hanging basket until I witnessed a chough standing on it carefully pulling out tufts of fibre with which to line its nest.

Wars occur when bands of choughs from other family groups engage in kidnapping raids seeking to steal the fledglings; these will be able to help them raise their own chicks next year. Perhaps this practice also assists genetic diversity. Certainly if a small group has 2 chicks to raise they can be run off their feet and a kidnapped chick may have a better chance of survival with a larger group.

Once it has fledged the chick is very vulnerable until it learns to fly properly. It is awe inspiring watching the adults teach their young firstly to hop onto a branch or log a few feet from the ground. The chicks are awkward, often tumbling off clumsily but the adult birds are patient, demonstrating the move again. Sometimes the adult birds will dig a shallow hole for the chicks and some will hover over them protectively whilst the others see off the kidnappers or any other threat.

Some threats are worse than others. A fox visits regularly and the occasional feral cat but one day when squawking was very loud and insistent I looked out the window to see that four or five choughs had bailed up a four foot snake. Keeping carefully out of its reach they squawked crossly whilst the poor snake tried to get away. After a while they let it slither away into the garden and nonchalantly resumed their foraging. When predators like this appear the choughs seem to be quite satisfied when, having been summoned, we rush out to assist with seeing off the interloper. However we were not very happy the day they bailed

up a small tortoise! Poor thing was just trying to make its way down to the dam.

Wars may also occur over territory and the battle can go on for days. This year “our” choughs, a group of four adult birds and one chick were besieged by a group of ten from somewhere else on the property. This group also had young so this was not a kidnap raid. It was a really hot day and the battle was for possession of the bird baths around the house especially the largest one which can accommodate at least 8 choughs all happily bathing in the water together. The fight was intense and “our” choughs came off second best and screeched angrily from their nest tree. That’s nature!

Sometimes, wings outstretched, they will play stacks on the mill all tumbling over each other in what appears to be an intense bonding ritual. At other times they enjoy their dust baths. As you see choughs can entertain you for hours. They are clumsy and comical, not always choosing a branch that will bear their weight when they land on it. They are self-possessed. They seem to tolerate our presence in their territory ignoring us as they go about the serious business of methodically turning over the ground litter for food. There’s never a dull moment so we forgive them the occasional cacophony of their fierce wars.

Choughs are susceptible to the loss of habitat that comes with subdivision and development. They gravitate to the road verges to forage and often get run over. They are also susceptible to the predation of introduced animals, the cats and dogs and foxes that accompany human habitation. This is especially so as the young spend much time on the ground before they learn to fly and for several weeks they can only roost on low branches and fallen timber. Choughs are just one of the many treasures of the natural bushland areas of Nillumbik’s Green Wedge and as such deserve our protection. Don’t let urban development encroach on our Green Wedge.

Colleen Hackett

Wildlife Need Thier Habitat Links Protected

Our wildlife are active and are used to roaming. They have their own paths and routes. They don't understand roads and the fact people are rushing to get to work in cars. The lights and noise confuse them. Additional buildings, adding roads, adding people, adding cars carves up these links the animals use. The noise and disruption drives them onto roads.

Wildlife habitat links are important if we want to maintain the environment we love here, the Green Wedge Management Plan is where we should be looking to protect them. Individuals are not good at being able to take on such a hefty challenge, our flora and fauna have to be protected via local and state legislation. Green Wedges are special areas that should take into account the needs of ALL users not just the homo sapiens but the others that depend on us for protection.

We have growth corridors and economic zones - Green Wedges are neither of those. They were introduced to provide open space, preserve rural landscape and to conserve the native vegetation and wildlife habitat. They were designed to keep Melbourne liveable. Each tree absorbing toxic fumes and recycling it into oxygen - can we have too much of that?

Keep Green Wedges as intended and plan to protect our beautiful, green environment. It supplements the urban areas and contributes to the value of Melbourne and Victoria as a whole. Don't disregard the value of our natural environment.



St Andrews Cross Spiders

I have been observing these spiders in my garden and more recently in the surrounding bush land. I started off with two, four years ago and this season I counted over 20. They are great in the garden as they create their web at just the right height for the cabbage white butterflies to go blundering into. I think every gardener should cherish them. They are called St Andrews Cross because of the x they embellish the web with. I have seen them make up to 3 egg sacks in a season but some don't live to create one. Masses of tiny spiderlings hatch out of these and blow away, but some remain behind and set up in the vicinity next season.



Some Ideas for consideration



Living in the Shire of Nillumbik is special, really special. It has special qualities, some of which are particularly unique and remarkable only to this area. Most would acknowledge this to be desirable, to some, very desirable attributes, and, like myself and many like me, these would be the main reasons that these people live in this area.

We, the residents, love and respect this area, this is our place, our home. I have lived and worked here all of my life. This is my place.

Loosely, The Shire has two types of owners and residents:

1. "Suburban" residents – those that live in well-treed urban centres, Eltham, Research, Diamond Creek, Wattle Glen and Hurstbridge. Typical outer suburban density.
2. "Landed" residents – those that live on and around small to large, rural holdings – Panton Hill, Smiths Gully, St Andrews, Christmas Hills, Bend of Isles, Kangaroo Ground, etc. Much lower density than suburban density.

That said, living in the Shire of Nillumbik, and by definition a Green Wedge area, has a number of great, truly unique qualities – cultural and tangible - that need to be protected, enhanced and actively encouraged.

Some of these qualities, particularly the cultural art and literature, are (rightfully) well supported by council – e.g. The Nillumbik Art Prize, the Alan Marshall Short Story Award, the Eltham Jazz Festival, etc.

On the down-side, there are a number of critical issues that need to be addressed so that The Shire can continue to evolve, retain and properly enhance its special character.

Briefly:

Specific Advantages.

- The feeling of space/landscape – regulated land use, minimum size subdivisions and farm lots, etc. River valleys and hill country. Beautiful skylines (mostly).
- Close to nature – wide, rich and diverse flora and fauna.

Edendale Farm.

- Art and literary culture – A strong and continuing Nillumbik tradition of artists, potters, printmakers, authors, musicians, glassmakers etc living and working in Nillumbik.
- Nillumbik promoted as "The Artisan Hills".
- Monsalvat.
- Dunmoochin.
- Proximity to Central Melbourne
- Large stock of unique buildings – home of the Mudbrick revival from the 1930's until its demise from 1995 until 2006. Large stock of ageing individual owner builder/occupier built homes.

.Eltham Library building.

Specific Disadvantages.

- Small rate base – expensive to hold. Limited opportunities for land use/make income from small, "hobby farm" type allotments (say any land under 40 acres).
- No public transport in most of Nillumbik.

Four immediate initiatives

1. Allow a wider land use for rural business development
2. Educate children (particularly) and adults about nature
3. Lobby State Government to provide basic Public Transport
4. Take full control of the building process and actively encourage owner builders and small builders.

Allow a wider land use.

Owners of small land holdings in Nillumbik are often financially penalised for living with nature.

They are not rated as a farm because (rightly) they cannot clear it for agricultural use (specific overlays), have to maintain it (weeds, feral animals, fencing) and be fire-ready among other things.

Rushed, uninformed and time poor landholding practices often lead to the "Gumtrees and Grass" syndrome further reducing local biodiversity and degrading our collective assets.

While many accept this as part of their lot so to speak, many find the lack of options far too restrictive.

Small scale, 'hobby' farming, bush walking, trail bike riding, horse riding, spring flower tourism, bird and nature watching are all major pursuits.

These activities are not mutually exclusive.

I myself do, or have done, all of these things.

The "Artisan Hills" concept and promotion is terrific and admirable and a good step in the right direction. It sets our Shire apart from others, helps us to define ourselves if you like.

However to make this work fully, across all recreational activities – not just the arts - it needs to develop sensible rules and regulations for landowners and small business to provide the services and industries needed to support this initiative. Sensible, specific rules and regulations relating to specific land use and not just the usual, basic things including opening/closing hours, health department rules etc..

Small Bed and Breakfast businesses and similar low impact tourist opportunities should be actively encouraged to take advantage of The Shire's unique environment, culture and experiences. Licensing requirements for restaurants, coffee shops, wineries and other service/day visitor and tourist type industries should be reviewed and expanded where sensible.

Educate children (particularly) and adults about nature

I grew up in the "Eltham side" of Montmorency in the 1950's through to the '70's, the Sherbourne Road end of Rattray Road.

As a child, along with my neighbours, I would spend a lot of time walking in and playing in the bush – as a consequence we all got a good grounding in what was around us.

If you asked anyone I grew up with, they would know what a green-hood, a chocolate flower, pin cushions, early Nancy's – such a delicate and beautiful scent - an emperor gum moth (caterpillar pictured), a spittfire or a ten-time stinger were. Sadly, ask any 10 year old child today and they would have no idea what they are.

The reasons for this dislocation from the world around us are many and varied and we need to do more to address this.

Edendale Farm has for a long time now been a terrific, Shire funded, educational resource. However much more needs to be done.

Nature study days in Nillumbik should be a normal and frequent activity at schools in Nillumbik.

Wildflower season should be a highlight, along with other, regular, nature activities like

animal spotting, tree and plant identification, creek and river habitat, night nature walks etc. Aboriginal Heritage should also be a focus.

- More full-time education officers should be employed, particularly for primary and early secondary schoolchildren.
- Massively expand the available information on what flora and fauna that live in Nillumbik and why they are so special. Every month there should be a flier available in all post boxes on what is happening in nature for that month – what to look out for, where and time to look, and very importantly, clear pictures.
- All new owners in Nillumbik should receive a solid and comprehensive information pack containing, among other things, some of the special qualities and values that Nillumbik has and the regulations that we have that protect these special qualities and values. So often people move into Nillumbik from other areas and the first thing that happens is that a whole lot of trees are cut down. Council Officers turn up, neighbours are upset, fines are issued, there is a lot of bad feeling and things turn ugly. People decamp into simple factions and the bad feelings remain. Why? Mostly because of ignorance. This need not and should not happen. Council needs to be very, very proactive here.

Provide basic Public Transport

The Shire needs Public Transport.

Aside from train stations at Eltham, Diamond Creek, Wattle Glen and Hurstbridge and bus services from Eltham to Warrandyte, there is no Public Transport.

This is unbelievable! My father remembers a service he used many times to Strathewen in 1920's.....

This has lead to, for so many in the “Landed” areas, to a transient car society completely dependent on the private car for mobility.

Social isolation – the young, the older and special needs people are especially impacted, along with constant parent fatigue. Believe me, I know.

People don't get to know their neighbours as everyone is ferried around in private cars.

Atrophying townships – Panton Hill, Smiths Gully, St Andrews, Christmas Hills, Watsons Creek, Strathewen.

These centres have a school, a hall, a pub, a store/post office, a restaurant, sometimes one (Christmas Hills, Watsons Creek, Smiths Gully) sometimes all (St Andrews). They are just hanging in there – they should be much more vibrant and successful than what they are. A simple bus stop outside these places would be a good start.

- A regular, basic, public transport service is a serious priority. Lobby State Government to provide this.
- And, in the interim, contract a local bus line to provide one.

Take control of the building process

Nillumbik has lost its way here.

What The Shire is well known for throughout Australia and abroad is its mud brick and singularly unique, owner builder homes.

Currently this tradition in this Shire is dead in the water.

Volume builders with their economies of scale, industry and political clout combined with excessive, ill considered, poorly researched, knee jerk and changing regulations at State and Federal government level have effectively killed off these industries.

This is a tragedy on so many levels, particularly for The Shire and its residents (and society as a whole).

To protect its heritage, to change this, The Shire needs to be bold and its residents need real choice.

The Shire needs to actively encourage innovation in its built environment.

Nillumbik needs to take control of the building process and introduce specific bylaws and charges for every new building and addition in The Shire.

For example (and not limited to):

- The Shire should employ or contract its own arborists and charge a fixed price for this

service. As with Private Building Inspections, currently these are open to corruption. (I could give you a recent personal example.) A fixed price per lot or m2 would level the playing field for everyone, including small builders and owner builders. It would stop pointless duplication for the honest and an open invitation to bend the rules for the corrupt.

- The Shire should employ its own energy raters and rate every new building. Again, this should be a fixed price per dwelling (or addition if applicable) or m2. This will also stop fraud. There are many, many new buildings being built and promoted and rated as being 5+ star which are plainly not. Once again, this would level the playing field for all builders, large, small and owner builders, the latter who are unfairly penalised under the current system.

- The Shire should inspect every building at every stage – foundation, frame, lock-up, insulation, wet area, practical completion. The “Private Inspector” building system is a formalised and institutionalised conflict of interest system and plainly open to corruption. After 23 years, sub-standard building standards and practices are widespread today. I could cite many examples.

- The Shire Building Department should be able to assess and approve submitted plans by anyone as long as they are of correct standard. I drew all of the plans for my home in Hurstbridge in 1984 relying on industry knowledge and stock standard, industry span tables. The only specific engineering drawings and calculations were for a site-specific retaining wall. This was fair and reasonable and it should be the same today.

- Grant owner builders a 4 year permit with a 4 year extension as an automatic right. Owner builders often do most of the work themselves while working at other professions. Consequently they are time poor and things naturally take a lot longer. I myself have done two big owner building projects: the 1st took me 11 years before practical completion/final inspection, and the recent one 9 years. This is often the norm.

- Employ a chief planner with design experience and give them a wide brief to give council sound, in-house advice. (Rob Adam’s 30+ year tenure at the Melbourne City Council is a good example.) This will be especially important with further high-density development applications and construction in future years. This development is going to happen, and is actually desirable; however The Shire MUST have proper control over this. Otherwise Nillumbik will be flooded with the same bottom-dollar, future slum type developments which are taking place throughout the Melbourne metro region. Solid design parameters need to be established *and enforced*.

- Create an award system whereby great design is acknowledged and celebrated. We have the Nillumbik Art Prize which is widely celebrated, why not building? As stated, The Shire is known throughout Australia for its unique buildings, these should be celebrated. The Shire should establish a building prize for the best building built in the Shire. The specific, Shire-centric criteria could be worked out. This could be an annual event, or (probably) biannually – every two years. There should be a number of categories, including but not confined to:

- Domestic homes
- Commercial buildings
- High density living
- Best Owner builder home
- Best Owner builder project
- Best renovation

With an overall winner. (The Alistair Knox Prize?)

These are some ideas that I have and I hope that they are of some help in the coming review.

Frank Taylor

A secret place

When I need to clear my head or take a pause after a busy and stressful day I visit Boomers Reserve. The smell , sights and sounds of Boomers are an antidote to my experiences of the suburbs and the city. Small unexpected discoveries such as a flowering plant, a glimpse of a wallaby in the gully and varied birdsong, help me put things into perspective and show me what is of most value in my life

River Town

I think that it's got me
this sleepy dream town.
I think that the river
now runs through my veins.
Me, the girl from Fitzroy
came here on a whim.
My friends thought for months
this phase soon would pass
as soon I missed
the bustle, the pubs,
all that night time excitement,
and I'd pine for my mates.
But the magic it got me
right from the start,
the slow river silence
the raucous dawn chorus.
And the brown satin river
that flows through your life,
its' dreamy meander
slowing you down.
Now that I'm here
the river's turned bossy,
says Never Again!
to 'Best Practice' meetings and work-till-you-drop.
Each morning I walk,
and murmur my thanks
for the brown satin river
that flows through my life,
its dreamy meander
slowing me down.
Its magic meander-
this sleepy dream town.

- Karen Throssell

A native bee resting in the morning on Chocolate lily plant.

There are many native bees which can be found living in the Nillumbik shire. Native bees have always been important because they pollinate a range of plants more efficiently and successfully than the introduced European honey-bee including indigenous wildflowers, and tomatoes. Habitat for insects in the shire, are under threat from developments. Without habitats in clay banks and native vegetation, insects cannot seek shelter and produce offspring. As a result, they will die-off or move elsewhere. It may seem insignificant, but with Varroa mite likely to hit honey- bee populations in Australia soon, I think you may appreciate native bees contributing more to crop pollination. The little things you may not see as you go about your day, are vital to the shires health.



The little things are important!

Nillumbik is home to range of beautiful fungi. Fungi are extremely important to the health of an ecosystem. Without specific species, for example, trees cannot survive. This is because Fungi break down and store nutrients for trees such as eucalypts. In exchange a plant will provide carbohydrates to the fungi. This symbiotic relationship is happening all around us! But fungi do more than help the health of Manna gums and Candlebarks. They also provide food for our wonderful marsupials (whilst most are poisonous to humans some animals can feast on them) and help breakdown plant matter. When a log or branch is broken down over time, the remaining compost feeds our forests. Without the composts texture and nutrients, it will become more challenging for our forests to grow. So, by removing vegetation, for more unnecessary developments, or to supposedly 'clean up the bush' you are actually harming many other smaller components that are vital to the shires ecosystem. Without healthy ecosystems we don't get all the wonderful things that wildlife provide us for free (pollination, temperature control, erosion). The little things you may not see as you go about your day, are vital to the shires health. The below fungus is a 'Blue Mycena' which can be found along the Yarra in Warrandyte.



Nillumbik adventure rewarded



About 15 years ago a local ecologist found a Greenhood orchid on our property in Research. He started me off on an adventure of learning to identify the indigenous grasses and plants and weeding out the impostors. I am still learning and the more I do the more I am rewarded by seeing the indigenous landscape come back. Now an increasing variety of ground orchids pop up naturally when and where ever they like - the most precious of these are the Spider Orchids. Where else but in Nillumbik could such a beautiful orchid still come up on its own?

The End of an Era

Leaving Warrandyte – the end of an era:

Of their childhood – the city escape
 That small girl, arms out – running. All that space!
 Their growing up and leaving. Returning –for peace
 Of that home we bought together – Ours!
 bought eventually with your blood and pain

Now where your ashes lie
with the five cats buried over the years, the few chooks
who managed to die of old age, and one goat in a hole
which took you all night to dig
Of the view from the bed
the window full of trees—framed by a tiny slice of blue
sun creeping up the valley, kissing their tops as it comes
Of the view from the shower, the best in the world –
the long window filled with tree-sweep and hillside
wet leaves glinting. Sometimes mist
Of the view from the window
on whose ledge a blue wren hops
long strips of bark from a gangly gum, dangling like a bell-pull
Of the little brown swampie we curse and love
its pointed face looking up
from its geranium breakfast
Of the purple winters: native mint, indogopora
hardenbugia twining and drooping
Clumps of miniature Iris edging the stairs
Of evenings on the balcony
a glass of wine in our tree-green sea
saluting our haven, and our luck...

Riding out quietly on the tracks and trails that meander along the roadside verges and through the council reserves in Nillumbik is a joy. A wonderful way to enjoy the natural environment and beauty of the Green Wedge safely and peacefully.



Rural Views



Rural Views - The visual diversity of bush, pastures, vines, orchard, native animals, rural livestock. The strength and sustainability of the Green Wedge lies in the beauty of the diversity.

Walking in the Green Wedge



Orchid Woodlands



These Smith's Gully woodlands are home to a wonderful array of tiny orchids in spring. As a community, let's ensure that the habitat that sustains these increasingly rare plants are respected and protected from inappropriate development. Changes in water run-off, infestation by non-indigenous plants (garden escapees) , and the use of fertilisers nearby would all upset the balance that at present sustains these tiny gems. We are so lucky to enjoy our LIVING Green Wedge. Let's be sure to pass on its health, and singular beauty to our descendants!



Meaningful Moments

There have been numerous meaningful moments for me during the 38 years I have been living in the Bend of Islands. Among them are:

- Encounters with wombats: The first occurred when I heard a munching sounds below our house and encountered a wombat eating from the bale of hay from which we were providing food for our kids' guinea pigs. Born and raised in New York, with no previous wombat experience, I tried to move the wombat and encountered an immovable object. Another encounter occurred when I noticed a black shape drinking from our ornamental pond. By then, cognizant of wombats, I thought I'd have a chat with this one, but it turned on me with great speed, hissing in a most menacing way. Only then did I notice two baby offspring which she was protecting by positioning by them and me.
- For the past few years, a grey shrike thrust has been building a nest annually on a ledge outside any study.
- We also enjoy what appears to be an annual visit from a pair of king parrots, who perch nearby and look down at us in a most familiar manner, staying about 15 minutes before continuing their journey.
- Out on a limb. One day we looked outside to see about a dozen choughs all lined up on a tree limb close to the house. Another time, a family of Tawny Frogmouths was lined up in a similar fashion apparently engaged in teaching the young one how to hold their immobile poses. All were fine, except the smallest, which just could seem to 'freeze' like its parent and older siblings.
- We have had multiple koala visits, perhaps the most notable of which took place early one morning when one of our granddaughters who was just learning how to speak, cried out 'Walla, walla' and pointed out the glass door a koala crossing in front of our house.
- Historically, perhaps our most important encounter with the locals, occurred when my wife asked quizzically, 'What does a lyrebird look like', which evidently resulted in the first sighting of a lyrebird in the area since the 1962 bushfires. There have been several record sightings since.
- In human terms, by far my most meaningful moment occurred when, after a couple of years of planning, and with the support of Council, the Bend of Islands Conservation Association erected a sign to commemorate both the Traditional Custodians of the area and our collaboration in maintaining and enhancing our local environment. The design and text of the sign was also arrived at collaboratively, and it was officially 'launched' with the help of Wurundjeri elders.

Icons: Eltham Copper Butterflies

these jewels are so rare that we could lose them to the "phantoms of progress" if we water down our Green Wedge protocols... :-((



ICONS (Eltham Copper Butterflies) © Ona Henderson

Native enjoyment



On my daily commute on the train, between Diamond Creek and Wattle Glen, I see our native kangaroos alongside areas of the track. I love to look out for them as they entertain me by changing their positions and movements. I have heard many times, other train commuters squeal with delight from young people to tourists at the enjoyment of seeing them as well. They literally run to the side of the carriage to capture a glimpse as the train moves along. Other native animals I see are our beautiful birds; King Parrots, Galahs, Kookaburras, loud and boisterous Yellow Crested Cockatoos. At night we have the fortune of wombats, owls and other nocturnal animals.

The Green Wedge provides a home for these and many other native Australian animals. The harmonious blend allows tourists and residents to visit our wineries, drive or ride along scenic landscapes in escape from the heavily developed residential city and inner suburban areas. The hills of Diamond Creek have been stripped of trees, leaving the earth bare while housing developments take place. Pushing further out the native and natural landscape of

our country Australia. I also love the quaint Wattle Glen train station. How precious to hold onto a replica of times not so heavily congested. The vision as I drive or walk towards it heading out of town is impressive, especially during the night when the lights gently shine.

Did Rupert say that?

Why thank you my dear, yes, yes I too consider the establishment of the Green Wedges, “*the lungs of Melbourne*”, as the scheme has been called, to be one of the finest achievements in my time as Premier. But not mine alone of course. This vision for the future of Melbourne would in no way have been possible without the contribution and hard work of colleagues from across the political spectrum. It is not always easy to garner support for something that is largely designed for future benefit. Ever-present immediate demands, issues that require solutions right away..... These render it difficult to think ahead and plan for times to come. So credit to us all I say.

And... whilst all looks good now – I foresee that the Green Wedges will always be under pressure, particularly around the boundaries I imagine, pressure to develop, small scale encroachment, these will be the ‘rising damp’ if you will. Slowly, slowly undermining the integrity of the whole. There will always be those that view the natural world as a limitless resource with infinite capacity to rebound, despite the evidence of history. Opportunities for personal gain for a few at the expense of the greater common good, sadly I see this emerging as a threat to our way of life. The people with power will need to use it wisely. What we have now is just the start, the true test of success is when it will probably be most crucial, 40, 50 years from now.

But I have hope because of our democratic traditions. I cannot imagine the people of Eltham Shire losing their voice, abandoning their altruistic traditions and sacrificing the benefit of the green wedge for all of Melbourne, for the short-term benefit of some.

Why indeed yes, I have been closely involved with the arts throughout my political career as well, but the Green Wedges, the team work, the support from colleagues across the political spectrum..... wonderful. You must also note that these two passions, the environment and the arts, are related. Cast your mind out to the astonishing artwork that has taken inspiration from our Green Wedge in the Shire of Eltham..... Monsalvat, Dunmoochin, Baldessin and many, many small studios within the area. These provide residencies and opportunity for people across Melbourne and Victoria and give rise to works that delight across the world. I believe this to be because of their location, the affiliation with the natural world, the relationship with indigenous flora and fauna, finding a sense of connection and meaning from understanding the interconnectedness and interdependence of all living species.

Anyway my dear, I did what I could during the time I had the enormous privilege of political power, and I can take some comfort in that. I can only hope that the leaders of the future will have the fortitude to withstand the pressures they may face, to continue the legacy, but that is something over which I have no control.

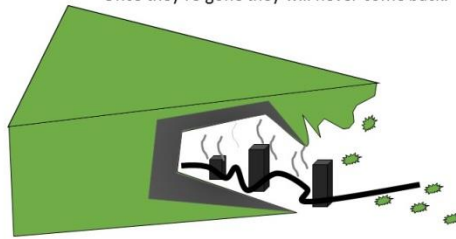
I thank you kindly for your interest, it has been a great delight to chat, but I must away. It is the opening of the Melbourne Concert Hall tonight, a centre that I hope will elevate our city as a place of innovation and creativity and vision, just as I humbly believe the Green Wedges do.

You can't have your cake and eat it too - don't nibble away at the Green Wedges.

For many years I have enjoyed the green lungs of Melbourne city, walking, cycling and sharing with international visitors this wonderful capital city of ours. I visit regularly and I am really, really concerned that development will erode this wonderful facilities, as the council might pass it off as "appropriate".

You can't have your cake and eat it too

I am really worried about the future of our city's lungs.
I love taking international visitors to enjoy our green areas.
Once they're gone they will never come back.



LEADERS:

Show some courage.

**Don't let so-called "appropriate" development nibble away at our green wedges.
Keep them strong and sound and safe.**

The spirit of the Green Wedge

Ok so I am walking down unsealed Silvan Road in Wattle Glen, a warm late autumn morning. A tradie truck races by, throwing up some dust, interrupting my reverie. Humpf. A little way down the road they stop abruptly and start pointing to something in the adjacent paddock. I notice a small mob of roos. I also notice they appear to be reaching in to the back of the truck for something. My frame of mind towards them is a little on the negative side given the interruption and so first up I am suspicious "ahhgg, don't scare them so the little ones crash into fences, surely not a bow and arrow, a gun....."

By now I have reached the side of the truck. "*Hey guys – s'up*" I say. "*Roos*" says the slim, hat backwards, fully tattooed, younger one, with delight on his face. "*Fancy seeing them here – so close to the city, I ain't never seen 'em in the wild before*" he goes on. My mood softens. "*Well bro, I've never seen them - never*" says the (much) larger of the two, Maori background it emerges. They continue to take shots, photos on their phones. Of course. "*Soooo awesome – lucky we went the wrong way huh bro, cool we got this job, made my day, stoked*" their conversation continues, genuine pleasure.

The roos bound off, it's time to be on our way. They offer me a lift, assuming that walking could only be a chore I guess. I refuse and resume my walk, putting off the real chores, spirits lifted. Happy to have my prejudices challenged and delighted that they have had such a positive "green wedge" experience.

How come we have a Green Wedge, and why should you care?

It's a credit to far sighted politicians over forty years ago who established our Green Wedges, as a way of planning for a liveable city - though that expression had not been invented in 1971. This leaflet says more..

Wedge 1



How come we have a **Nillumbik Green Wedge** and **why should you care?**

We all owe a big thank you to Sir Rupert Hamer, Liberal Premier from 1972 to 1981, and before that Minister for Local Government. Premier Hamer had the foresight to create green wedges separating urban growth along transport corridors from farms and parkland between, and developed a network of regional parks for the recreational enjoyment of people living in the fast-expanding suburbs.

Since that time these green wedges have been an integral part of Melbourne's urban planning. They are a crucial limitation on uncontrolled urban sprawl. Most importantly, they are designed to provide open space, preserve rural landscape, be the "lungs of Melbourne", and to conserve native vegetation and wildlife habitat. They are a vital part of keeping Melbourne livable.



Legislation introduced by the Bracks Government clearly delineated the urban growth boundary to stop urban encroachment. This legislation was designed to protect green wedges from inappropriate development, and especially to protect areas of high environmental and scenic value such as Nillumbik, the Dandenong Ranges, the Yarra Valley, Westernport and the Mornington Peninsula. Legislation to keep the natural beauty we all enjoy.

Each local Council with Green Wedge land is required to prepare a Green Wedge Management Plan which sets out how the council will fulfill its custodial responsibilities.

The Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan 2010-2025 is Nillumbik's response to these statewide planning requirements. The purpose of the plan is to direct the sustainable management of the Green Wedge, in conformity with State Government guidelines.

The Council is required to review the Plan every five years and this was done in November 2015. However, the current Council has begun a further review and has removed the Green Wedge from its five strategic objectives.

This is unfortunate given that when the current shire was formed in 1994 it was established specifically as a conservation shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. Prior to that the Eltham Shire maintained strict planning controls which upheld green wedge values and goals.

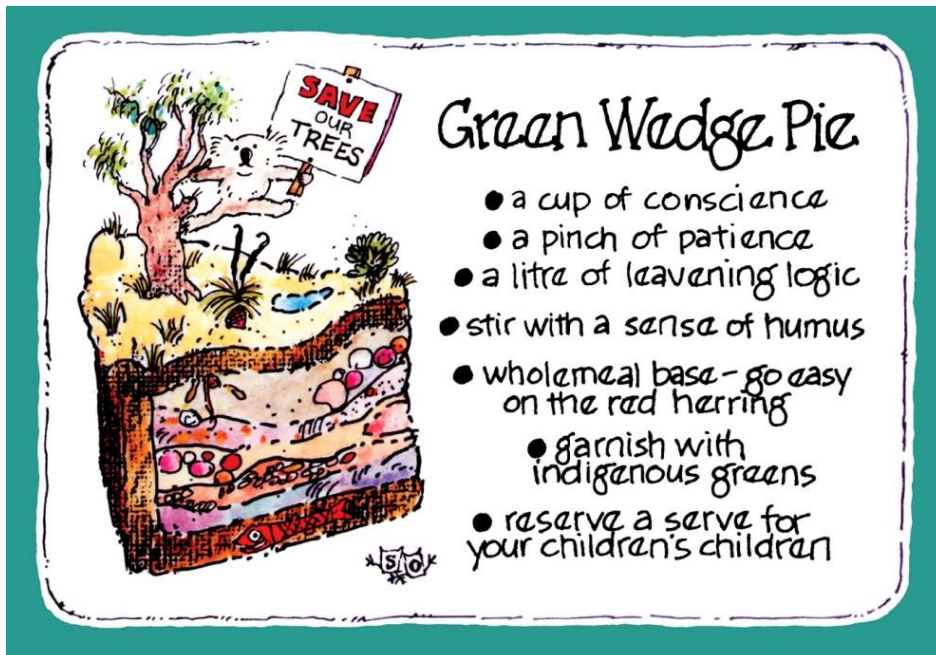
Since their formation Green Wedges have been under constant development pressure, both internal and external. There has been incremental erosion from inappropriate development and the pursuit of private interests at the expense of the common good. Constant vigilance is required to preserve the original intent and vision of Premier Hamer.

Without the active support of all concerned citizens this heritage will be lost to future generations.

- 1 If you want to find out more go to this website:
greenwedge.warrandyte.org.au
- 2 To keep up to date sign up for our newsletter:
savethegreenwedge@gmail.com
- 3 You can find the Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan on the Council's website:
nillumbik.vic.gov.au/greenwedge

Sponsored by the Green Wedge Protection Group, Friends of Nillumbik and the Warrandyte Community Association

Green Wedge Pie... a recipe for sustainability... by Ona & Syd



Treechanging

I moved first to Warrandyte then later to Research and into the Green Wedge a couple of shorts years ago. How life has changed! Most of my friends still live busy city lives, but I've slowed right down, living in a rental on 6 acres of bushland.

The bush is regrowth, but full of animals - a local mob of kangaroos, echidnas every so often, a resident wombat, wallabies, and countless types of birds. People really don't believe you can find such natural beauty so close to the city.

I've become involved in a local environmental action group in response to the threats to the Green Wedge (which, sad to say, seem to be an ever-present thing) and I hope that using a citizen panel to come up with a new management plan will put an end to this playing games with nature. It is so important, far more than just beyond the benefits to locals and local wildlife, that 'the lungs of Melbourne' remain well tree'd, well cared for and undeveloped as much as possible.

Jobs can always be created in this modern economy, but the benefits of developing rare bushland will be quickly lost to generations to come. So my story is one of coming to appreciate the beauty here, and getting involved in protecting it because I've grown to love it, and care about it in the same way the bush looks after me.

Thank you to Eltham Community!

The Eltham community really showed what can be achieved when residents band together against something that will destroy the unique places in Nillumbik! The march and information against the sale of 17 reserves throughout Nillumbik was a wonderful community achievement. All Nillumbik residents who value what we have should learn that we can, together, send bad ideas packing!

Islands pure at heart

A community in tune with nature helps safeguard the northern green wedge, writes **Mary Costello**

THERE'S a cluster of idyllic islands in a bend of the Yarra River that forms the northern green wedge, they call it the Bend of Islands. Its residents have created a community that nurtures the area's natural beauty and to protect the ecosystem that survives in the southern Christmas Hills between Kangaroo Ground, Werribee and Yarra.

In the 1960s the government proposed bulldozing the area to create a dam. A local artist and environmentalist, the late Ned Douglas, fought the plan and his efforts resulted in the creation of a 635-hectare tract of land in Victoria's first environmental living zone. It now holds a distinctive character and is a haven for native wildlife.

The BOI has always attracted people and continues to do so. "When they were going to build a dam here, it was the ecologists, environmentalists and art people who got together and fought for this land, so-called 'green block'," Henderson says.

Ned Douglas started the whole notion of green wedges in Melbourne. He was a broad thinker, the sort of person who would see the world in a different way. "What do you see when you look down? A silver meandering river through the bush and it's something we have to save," he said.

For Henderson and her artist husband, Syd Tunn, the BOI is a dream. They've lived and worked here for many years, with their home on one side of the road and their studios on the other. "We've found a place of art here," Henderson says. "With the former Maroonahli aqueduct to the north, Watsons Creek to the west and the Yarra River to the east, it's like an island and metaphorically it's an island of many other things — a place set apart from the rest of the world."

The locality provides a "huge part" of the inspiration for Henderson and Tunn's work. "We're a stone's throw from the Yarra and the creek, so the bush and the water are part of it."

Bend of Islands

A community in tune with nature.



there was an ancient river and it connects to the Yarra. We have a flood plain, so the water surrounds us in a misty island. During the 1960s, when the government wanted to bulldoze the area, we watched huge cranes floating and the islands in the river were being cut off. It was a sad sight and it will change the make-up of the islands over time. We have a 100-foot marina, canals, and a 100-foot dam and I can't paint the wildlife."

For the past 28 years, Tunn and Henderson have showcased their work through the Millbrook Artists Centre. Since 2003, they have an average of 100 visitors each

afternoon from all over Melbourne, not just from the Bend of Islands. "The Bend is unique," she says, "not only in its typography but in its location. It's a place where you can have a small kitchen and a table. Once we felt disconnected but now we can get to the theatre in 15 minutes. We're not really so far away in time but we are in a different world."

The knowledge of living in the BOI comes with certain restrictions and responsibilities. The president of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA), Robyn Duff, says: "We have a strict environmental living requirements designed for conservation. It's like living in a national park," she says. "There are no cars, dogs or livestock allowed and you gradually diminish over time."

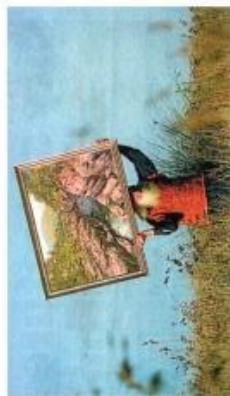
can only use plants that existed in the area before European settlement. We make a list of suitable plants available to residents. But you can have a small kitchen and a table. Once we felt disconnected but now we can get to the theatre in 15 minutes. We're not really so far away in time but we are in a different world."

"There are some properties that are non-conforming because the area was proclaimed. They might keep a horse but there must be continuous use. If that use lapses you lose that right, so the exceptions are gradually diminishing over time."

There are no cattle here and few sheep. There's now only one cat in the whole zone and far fewer dogs than there were originally. "When properties come up for sale, we try to attract attention to ensure that people are aware of the zoning and understand what they're getting into," Mr Duff says. "We try to attract attention to ensure that people are aware of the zoning and understand what they're getting into."

Local estate agent Lewis Brock says buyers are attracted by the BOI lifestyle but some are deterred by the zoning restrictions. "It's a very strong market for properties in a natural environment but you do lose buyers because having horses, dogs and cats is out: all those buyers are looking for a different lifestyle. People prefer to live in an environment that keeps pressure on property prices."

Domain.com.au



Environmentally aware residents Ned Douglas and Syd Tunn (left) evoke the late Ned Douglas (above) in their efforts to preserve the Bend of Islands.

estates in places such as Doreen use train stations, schools, kinders and other facilities in Villambak to see the development spill over the shore boundary. At a recent council meeting, a number of property owners petitioned for the rezoning of land around Research and Development Creek for residential subdivision. Such applications feed concerns that encroaching development is threatening the future of the BOI. "We have an excellent relationship with the council," says Mr Brock. "We're in a great position, with a good argument for retaining the wildlife corridor between the Bend and the surrounding area. We've had a lot more wildlife since we've had a lot more wildlife since the bushfires. Visitors to the area are amazed at what we have just 30 minutes from the city."

Local estate agent Lewis Brock says buyers are attracted by the BOI lifestyle but some are deterred by the zoning restrictions. "It's a very strong market for properties in a natural environment but you do lose buyers because having horses, dogs and cats is out: all those buyers are looking for a different lifestyle. People prefer to live in an environment that keeps pressure on property prices."

"People prefer to live in an environment that keeps pressure on property prices."

the beginnings of this formal "Green Wedge" name... a story

How can one person's waste removal (burning it!) be allowed to destroy the air we breath and environment?

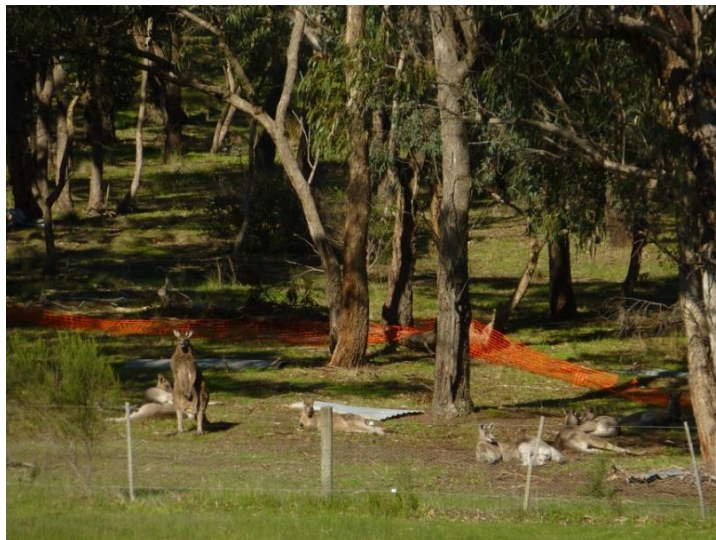


How can one person's waste "removal" be allowed to affect 1000s?

I don't understand why getting rid of your waste should be allowed to destroy the health, visibility, environment and so on? Burning off is just moving pollution from your place to everyone's place!

Kangaroos vs Development

This is what a neighbouring resident put up - orange tape and tin nailed to trees - facing us because we objected, within our rights, to having them put a 1.8 metre chain-link fence on our boundary (Rural Conservation Zone) so that they could "keep kangaroos out". Council Planners did not effectively manage this and supplied dreadfully wrong information about overlays and about planning procedure! Better regulatory knowledge and facts lead to better results! However, with Council giving misinformation, we had to use Fencing Act. The fence would have been unsightly, and would have separated joeys from their mob. This is what the kangaroos thought of the tape and tin.



Workshop comments

Ten workshops for community members and stakeholder groups were held in which participants responded to the survey questions in small groups. The dates and details of the workshops and the number of attendees are included below.

Date	Community	Number of Attendees
12 June	Landowners	35
14 June	Landcare members	16
16 June	Open community (public for everyone)	7
18 June	Friends of...groups	25
18 June	Landowners	25
20 June	Nillumbik Business and Tourism Assoc.	11
27 June	Open community (public for everyone)	10
2 July	Landowners	14
4 July	Equine Community	29
9 July	CFA members (note, this group are all CFA members, but were not representing the CFA in any of their views)	9
Total		181

What I love about the Green Wedge

12 June - Landowners
Proximity to Melbourne city
Rural feel with urban facilities
Not really special. Same as any rural area in Australia
close to all services
transport/trains buses
street neighbours we don't see each other much but for the most part they are great
open space owned property between the 3 of us for 200 years
flora - orchids
green wedge of farmland and bushy slopes
Motorbikes
horse-riding
bush walking
cycling
Rob Roy Hill Climb
Rural Rights - population has been listened to re: c81 and C101
Environment and lifestyle as is.
Community - there if you need it someone always knows something
Vibe - Diversity of uses
Sense of community
Living amongst like minded people who enjoy the honest work it takes to maintain our land

Bush setting, wild life
Sense of community
Best of both worlds
Proximity to CBD and surrounds
Community - supportive, depth of knowledge and insight, diversity of perspective and experience
Diversity of rural activity to be enjoyed outdoors
The benefit of open grazing land and what it provides for landholders - the ability to keep grazing animals
open space feel you can breathe and not having people on your doorstep
The views - bush/pasture little communities
Peace and quiet
Trees, open space, feeling of being away from city/work
Diversity of species, natural environment
Lifestyle Inc. animals / native birds and animals / fresh air
Safe, connected shared trail network for all recreational user groups walkers / horse riders / bikers
Variety of land use
Combination of open farmland and existing bushland
Proximity to CBD / services
landowners look after land well - results in others enjoying the area
Landowners created the green wedge
Community benefits / landowners should benefit
mix of rural and urban
Rural environment
Serenity - peace and quiet (good neighbours)
Sharing our land with friends from the suburbs and allowing them to explore and experience the bush and pasture alike.

14 June – Landcare members
Pleasure from the local wildlife and natural habitat
Natural landscape / open spaces unsullied by structures, provide connection to the natural environment
Living among the hills and trees but still be close to the city because it doesn't happen anywhere else.
Bushland environment and lifestyle
A sense of country community where people genuinely care about each other.
Being amongst the native birds and animals and being able to teach our children and grandchildren about the bush and how precious it is.
Share the bush with others who don't have the opportunity.
Green - environment
Biodiversity
Orchids
Animals * rare

Bikes
Caring for the land so it flourishes and the animals and birds flourish too, living amounts the bush with open space.
Being able to be stewards of the land to care and nurture it for the future.
Close Community = engagement.
Live within nature / fauna / flora
Amazing life within environment close to vibrant city.
Being part of a bigger picture - vision of the 12GW
We have a custodial responsibility / privilege to look after once lost cannot be restored / reclaimed
Lifestyle
Biodiversity
Atmosphere / ambience
Positive Environmental Attitude
Protection of flora and fauna
Vistas
Engaged community
Balanced community / environment
Solitude - not too many people but people in the community are like minded.

16 June - Community

I like living on my property for the memories over many years but will soon lose our amenity and privacy when our land is compulsorily acquired for the Diamond Creek-Hurstbridge train.
Green Wedge should be on public land.
We have survived living in Nillumbik without a Green Wedge plan quite successfully over 70 years. Using common sense and loved living without council, government laws.
Fresh Air
Space
Trees
Wildlife
Flora - Wildflowers
Peace - except where close urban development i.e. Yan Yean Rd, train, sewerage
Quality & Life

18 June – 'Friends of' groups

Healthy and accessible waterways
Re-emergence of platypus in Diamond Creek
Yarra River is wonderful
Recreation facilities that are lovely - even basic
Calmness that 'green' brings
Providing biodiversity
Nature, tranquillity, looks of homes to see nature
Space
Habitats

We are lucky to be custodians of truly significant part of the world.
Appropriate eco tourism okay, BBQ etc.
Large population of Melbourne require 'space' for... sanity
That a tree can live its full life cycle.
Readily accessible green space & the opportunities that provides physical activities
Quietness/Peacefulness/Darkness
The extent of Green Space is crucial to preserve ecological, status, size!!
Status of diversity of plants & animals (#4 in Australia for diversity)
Because of existence of GW the people are provided/are enabled to live a more contented life
Benefits the lives of people who do not want to live in the GW
Lungs of greater Melbourne
Sense of open space
Robust natural environment capable of sustaining native fauna & flora
Buffer against urban sprawl
Plays a role in overall Melbourne living
Co-existing with nature
Joy of connecting with natural environment - it's the web of the small things
Open space / Low density
Flora & fauna that's not Doncaster, Donvale, Box Hill etc.
Curfews in place - community, that restrict development, resist subdivision
Sense of community because of GW / Density, low noise pollution, light ozone levels very good
Dirt roads
Limited infrastructure - house sizes, swimming pools
Safe knowing things are safe such as animals and plants and waterways
Appreciation for native and indigenous flora and fauna
Fresh air - cuts down of pollution / illness
Big open green spaces and many small unmade roads
Being able to go for a walk in a bush area so close to Melbourne in remnant bushland / creeks.
Large building blocks, farms
Community involvement and passion for protecting flora and fauna, not just organisations (example: recent community pressure to stop passive land block sales)
Conservational preserving biodiversity, environmental, historical, archaeological, wildlife, landscape etc.
That townships have a non-urban style
Nature reserves
Trees, trees, trees
Size of lots
As residents in UGB we identify as a Green Wedge resident - proud of this
Landscape
Trees
Wildlife

Clean air
Open space
Non-urban - escape from the sprawl
Accessibility to the country
Opportunity for recreation
Feeling of freedom
Open space
Safety for kids
Variety of wildlife
Country feel of communities
Disconnect from city without losing advantages of proximity
Some development of off-road trails, but need to be expanded (Cycle paths)

18 June - Landowners

Protection of rural lifestyle properties
Landscape and character
Open environment
Rural aspect
Privacy
Biodiversity
Being able to live with my horses
Having a large bush block
Love natural environment
Rural atmosphere close to melb
Wildlife
Minimal pollution noise/ light/ air
Peace and tranquillity
Open bushland
Community
Scenery

20 June - Nillumbik Business and Tourism Association

Keep the green wedge ? And retain ?
Stop any further sub division but better guidelines on what you can do within the land size eg can you have multiple dwellings without subdividing
Holiday Cabins - Can they be build on an un subdivided block? How?
Legislation/ planning permissions - are contradictory - we want to ensure that clarity and help is given to folk who want to build tourism business on their land
Encourage tourism visitors to the region- but in a controlled way. Evidence of a strong growth in this business sector needs to be encouraged/ assisted in a controlled way, to create jobs in the area but to allow urban dwellings to share and enjoy what we have.
European village concept - Protect the land and preserve the rural business but allow small villages to develop further eg Arthurs creek, Kangaroo Ground, St Andrews
Want a hotel in Eltham

Want a camping ground in Hurstbridge
Unspoilt areas along the river
Open spaces
Generous land owners
Caring land owners
Wildlife
Large property sizes
Appropriate use of land
Artisan trail
Wineries
Wild life and safe corridors
Farmers Markets
Honesty box payment for goods, wish list
Bus service to farmers markets and other attractions
Tree bonds on significant trees across the shire
Open spaces including flora and fauna smells
Proximity to the city
Recreation opportunities

27 June - Community

Relaxing natural environment, bird watching, nature photography. Important because it is an escape from modern hectic lifestyle

Open spaces, uninterrupted distant views is important as we value fresh air and clean living

Accessibility to natural environment - not 15 mins away to enjoy. Important for mental health and wellbeing and social and family connections

Natural setting - flora, fauna and parklands. This is important because of the tranquility that nature provides

Visual beauty is important because green vs grey (concrete jungle)

Relaxing in the rural landscape is important for life balance (slow cooking)

Tree canopy is important for human, animal and organic life

Flora and fauna habitat - So important as once its gone it will never be replaced

Wildlife - birds, native animals - Important because a real delight to experience birds / kangaroos. Unique to living in this part of Melbourne

Environment - forest and river is important because of the conservation of native species and is a buffer from urban living/density

Rural/agricultural activities and amenities are important because they provide additional connections for people and animals to the land

Pasture and livestock, shared use recreation trails are important for family activity and mental health and wellbeing

Cycling through the "Artisian Hills" region and is important because it provides exercise in attractive surrounds

Equestrian activity - horseriding are important for lifestyle

Community essence and feeling part of the green wedge even if you don't technically live in the "green wedge". The community live here because they have a connection to the green wedge

The tradition of community and arts and culture. This is important because of shared interests, sense of belonging and we identify with where we live
Breathing space which is important as humans are part of nature and we need to maintain the connection with nature
Space - no high rise - less population density. This is important as it provides quality of life and is good for our health and wellbeing

2 July - Landowners

The open space and vistas
The community feel
The bushland .. And this also means the integrity of the bushland. Fragmentation destroys this as do poor land uses and Nillumbik is fortunate to still retain a lot of good vegetation
Diversity of landscape
Birdlife
People who live in rural areas
Community sport and activities - eg. Yarrambat Golf Club, Pony Clubs
Destinations Local - small eatery/wineries, walks, paths, park areas
In theory is fine but not practical in life. Just like socialism
Privacy
Wildlife - except deer, kangaroos, rabbits, wallabies that eat the fruit trees
We wouldn't live here if we didn't love it - views, its beautiful and being surrounded by bush
The trees, environment, community, people and diversity
Space, the views, wildlife and the natural environment

4 July - Equine community

Open areas and bushland/farmland
Wildlife - flora and fauna
Open trails
Local community spirit and groups
Supporting local businesses
Landcare groups
Views
Wildlife
Good mountain biking
Quiet environment
Community Spirit
Shared community values
Best of both worlds - urban and rural
Proximity to natural environment
Outlook onto rural properties/livestock
Ability to horse ride at local club grounds and in bushland setting
Open spaces - to be in /look at
Community spirit
Lifestyle opportunities for independence

Tranquility - but not isolated
Ability to ride horses - whole families can share this activity
Accessibility to trails
Agriculture - being part of an agricultural community who have to respond to the natural cycle of seasons
Connections are encouraged between and within community groups such as CFA, schools, pony clubs, trail riding club, tennis club, historical society
All the wildlife - wildlife corridors in the urban fringe areas
Open space/ peace and quiet
Nice riding trails - beside roads to stay safe
Ability to keep horses on your own property
Proximity to services/city while living in a rural area
Community feel
Small townships that are confined in terms of development
Mix of pasture and vegetated areas
Existence of grazing land to keep animals
Club facilities
Horse keeping sustains the small properties in the green wedge
Living in bush areas
Having horses
Fresh air
Peaceful - serenity
Trail riding horses
Having pony clubs and riding clubs nearby
Close to the city but still in our area - 'Best of both worlds'
The wildlife
Sense of community - small enough that you feel connected
The views
Cricket Club, Football Club
Market (St Andrews) and others all vibrant
Natural beauty of the area
Artists Open Studios -encourages and supports artistic community
Wineries are excellent - particularly those within riding distances!!
Slice of Paradise
Birds and wildlife
Love riding on the trails
Unmade roads
Nature - Trees
Air
Diversity of the landscape
The people
Village - General Store
Community

Markets
Ability to ride horses
Dog parks
Wildlife
Rural vistas
Current trails to ride
Clubs - riding in the area
Cater for diverse groups
RDA - Riding for disabled
Healthy, active, outdoor lifestyles
Large animal xxx - great needs support and recognition
CFA - blessed to have so many well trained CFA volunteers and council support
Good interactions with council office
Wild deer
Library
Cafes
Montsalvat
Artists Open Studios
Christmas Hills Community Hall
Ponyland
Good public transport (Trains)
Sense of Community
St Andrews Market
Hurstbridge Farmers Market
Wineries
Mudbrick homes
Old style general store
Hurstbridge Deli & Larder "Oku Den"
Solitude, quiet
Open spaces
Bush
Opportunity to keep horses
Access to safe trails
Lack of development
The number of riding clubs in our area allowing for good diversity
Shared trail network for all users - more trails throughout the shire
Opportunities for kids to experience and enjoy the great outdoors through recreation - riding, walking and bikes

9 July – CFA members

Open environment
Community Mix
biodiversity

rural flavour
sense of community (neighbours)
location, location, location
Environment (trees/wildlife etc)
Postal delivery
good educational facilities
creative community
shire engagement
presence of rare and endangered animals
Want to live in the bush
Want to live in this country
Want to live in small community
Easier to be part of community
Like the country town feel of Hurstbridge, St Andrews and Panton Hill
It's importance to Melbourne's health
biodiversity
mixture of bushland and rural
Economic benefits to Melbourne
Recreational benefits
Flora and fauna habitats
Community - diversity of community
Indigenous heritage
Heritage issues of the past (ie Queenstown Cemetary)
Soul of the community - Strathewan memorial for example
Access to Melbourne
Educational value
Orchards / vineyards
Tourism (passive) small employers
Community
Environment
Aspect
Urban rural interface
Clean air
Village life
Rural Environment
Land for horses / riding
Bush environment
mix of land use
biodiversity
Quiet / tranquility
Community spirit
ease of access to melbourne
Wineries

Small township as opposed to large towns

What are the biggest challenges in the Green Wedge?

12 June - Landowners

Controlling fuel loads regarding bushfire

Dealing with over regulation at all levels for property owners

Paying the highest rates to maintain a state and community regulated area

lack of development to attract public transport services

bushfire safety with increased fuel loads

residential (small allotments around 2 hectares) neighbours abutting green wedge

We spend 800 hours a year on property maintenance - it's a huge commitment and cost (love it, but wont be able to do it forever)

Fire danger

Not being allowed to protect oneself against fire

Poorly planned subdivision

Do not like community panel members who are not in green wedge or affected , making decisions about our future.

bushfire and vegetation management

restriction of the planning scheme

bushfires (knowledge lacking to combat)

property management issues

restricting regulation within the GW

lack of liberty for property owners

giving property owners self

80% of GW landowners should be on panel

some allotments too large, should be able to have dual occupancy on 5 acres. Can be developed in harmony with environment or family needs

high rates

reasonable balance of preservation of GW with the ability to enjoy it

The undervaluing of grazing land

the push to revegetate every square foot of land

driven agendas of hard core righteous individuals who throw out the natural balance of living here

over regulation and inconsistency in the planning and management of the rural land owners

Rigid, biased views towards planning scheme ie: no building on less than 20 acres - this is completely impractical.

lack of growth and opportunities for the economic expansion of the zone

force revegetation and the dangers associated include revegetation of fire refuges

Increasing bushfire risk across the district where roadsides are all planted out and not maintained (particularly since we must stay and defend to retain our property and asset)

The ever present risk that our 12 acre home in a 100 acre zone will burn down and we will not be able to rebuild so we cant leave if there is a fire (existing use provisions are not)

Two growth corridors either side, no plan

people leaving because of added challenges created by over regulation

over regulation - being constantly told what we must do with our own land
state governments new legislation, no control of land making it unliveable and harder to survive
financially hard
no local interest groups influenced
Yarra valley have B&B's and a thriving economy off the land, Nillumbik does not
Need to spend more money in local areas
constant push by environmentalists to lock it up - balance is needed!
overdevelopment - people want to live in the nice environment
canopy removal
low rate base for council
maintaining suitable environments for native species - biodiversity
access to services
frequency of public transport
creep of development into green wedge
incompatibility between bushland retention and proper fire minimisation/ maintenance c
Backdrop of complex regulation subject to perversion
inability of existing landowners who own land falsely regarded as under a minimum of 8 ha being able to build their home as of right
If your home is lost to a bushfire or fire, there should be an as of right provision to rebuild
Ability of overzealous individuals being able to dob a neighbour without any responsibility
Basically GW has got to cope with challenges
Residents reality versus outside expectations
expectations of urban residents does not coincide
property management and high cost flora and fauna out of balance eg: Kangaroos/deer reaching huge proportions at detriment to pastures and flora
poor and unusable roads
farm economics (ti tree) and thinking that it can be public resource
micromanagement by council eg: 30cm fence height for alpacas sheep calves out to roads

14 June – Landcare members

Incremental clearing of bush when they could buy cleared land. Managing clearing for bushfires in a sensitive way.
Atmosphere of fear generated around the risk of bushfire. The hyper-commentary about fire.
The variability of Council policy.
The vulnerability vested interest advocacy
How to get sufficient resources investment in caring and managing the GW and its values when it doesn't generate a lot of rates. Always looking for opportunities to 'pay for itself' - this is not the point!
Guarding what we have - protecting wildlife and fauna, less subdividing.
Development pressure - which is ongoing
Development = pollution + traffic. Decrease in care for natives, increase in weeds, increased water consumption from creek re: Dams/bores. Unsustainable
If people aren't happy with this lifestyle then maybe they would fit better into a different town or suburb.

Greed: Development - lack of future vision/sight.
Damage environment - decreased flow creek, increased pollution to creek, increased erosion - poor farming techniques / stock rotation.
Ongoing population growth. Ongoing pressure on urban growth boundary and types of uses permitted in the GW
Increased intensity and incremental degradation - every small thing is 'not much' but all adds up and sets precedents
Protecting biodiversity / reversing decline
population pressure
feral animals - deer
Weed management
Population increase versus Bushfire risk
Maintain planning scheme / uphold
Small lots development
Council agenda already expressed

16 June - Community
Kangaroos - no longer able to have cattle any more and neighbour about to do something
Corridor for kangaroos has gone - there fore in last
Over grazing from kangaroos is as huge issue
Nillumbik say they want a GW but they are cutting down trees.
Don't like green wedge. It dominates what we can do on OUR land.
Green Wedge on public land is OK, except on roadways
Roads are not made safe in Green Wedge areas because they won't clear dangerous trees off roadways.
Narrow roads.
Roads - Narrowness of roads
Ring Road should have been built 40 years ago
High rates - great no rate rise this year, congratulate Council
I like living on my property but don't like the Green Wedge. It wasn't Green Wedge when we bought it. It should be on public land only. I think its unfair to have private land appropriated for the public good without compensation. In the 1967 (7) MMBU Planning De-ownment compensation to private landowners was to be \$450m. Mr Gobbo put a motion to Parliament but it failed on the 2nd reading.
Urban Overdevelopment is causing strain on GW - RCR are providing freeland for Govt & Local Govt to take when they want.
Is this a tick the box session
Information for GW Mgt is not advertised enough advertised enough - Was it in the Nillumbik News letter to drop to all landowners - Cannot get panel hearing
Bushfires
Land Maintenance
Freeways being built on/near GW i.e Yan Yean Road.
Destruction of trees, waterways, kangaroo habitats, flora, fauna
Freeways being built on top of houses.
Chapel Rd an example of no communication. Sealed, landowners not aware, apparently

detour for the roads/Yan Yean Road

Inconsistent wording, what is Green Wedge? Govt, Council take land when they feel like it.

18 June – 'Friends of' groups

Failure to consult beyond shire

Concentration of consultation in least populated part of the shire

Property prices lead to changes in expectations

Sell off of Melbourne Water (Christmas Hills land)

Fences limit the movement of animals

Managing the bushfire risk; management of fuel

Pressures to develop GW including commercial aspects; housing; population

Pressures to rezone / weaken overlays

Roads - more efficient especially in emergency

Traffic pressure on road system & neighbourhoods. Carving up communities

Urban growth outside of Nillumbik & outside of Green Wedge placing pressures on infrastructure

Cat roaming; deer; feral species; impacting ecology

Economic development requires major infrastructure - roads etc which will destroy environmental values

Lack of information about Council proposals upfront - consultation first not halfway through.

Once gone no reclaiming for future generations

Development in Green Wedge (traffic) impacts on urban standards of living

Wildlife extinctions

Conflict fire management & 'bush care'

Threat of constant urban enforcement

Breaches of the native veg rules

Threat from councils desire for Nillumbik to 'grow'

People who want to make Green Wedge environmentally profitable

Concerns that our Mayor is a developer with vested interest in developing the area

Traffic along Main Road (Eltham) with one development of blocks of units

Bad planning, development causing traffic congestion (eg: Bunnings)

That ratepayers in UGB area share value

Inappropriate development in the Green Wedge

The Mayor being to development pro

Sudden increase in traffic - corridors from development area. GPS sends people the shortest rather than best way - danger to wildlife, humans and land.

Worried about heavy development of residential areas right of to the line of the Green Wedge, particularly Diamond Creek, Doreen

Are there buffers for the Green Wedge

Corrupt and shoddy developers building housing/businesses in Green Wedge.

Land owners with dollar signs before their eyes

Melbourne's population growth

Small lots issue

Lack of understanding & appreciation of the nature in the Green Wedge

Risk of losing previous knowledge & wisdom in previous GW plan
New arrivals do not understand the environmental importance of environment and indulge in inappropriate planting of introduced species.
No council environmental enforcement
Road verges are important for bush garden tree canopy, habitat, don't destroy them
10/30 trees in urban areas decimating tree canopy
Developers
Inappropriate development
Population growth
Local development problems
Funding - higher level solution required?
Private owners / public interest conflict
Invasive species
Expectations rebuilding a house or RCZ land in small lots
Green Wedge plan being totally rewritten by 40 people randomly selected and replacing a plan completed over 6 years by many and vetted experts/groups.
Management of land clearer guidelines from council
Access issues for maintenance without removing vegetation

18 June - Landowners
Bushfires x 5
Land maintenances
Replacement of c81 and 101
Open more land to more people
Problem of excessive roos - Road hazard, eating grazing/ crops
Too much control/ advice non-residents
Public transport under utilized due to lack of adequate service
Massive through traffic due to development adjoining GW
Land inside urban growth boundary has been missed GW could be expanded without problem
Planning scheme needs to reflect blocks that can't be build on
Fair use of land
Law and order
Security of land use on long term basis
80% of lots in a zone should be ' the Min zone -'
Wood heating has lower GH gas emissions than Elec/ gas. Why does council not promote this
Feel that many do not understand the risks and work required as a Custodian/ manager of large bush blocks
Council Eaucracy (Lack of empathy)
Regulations on larger blocks that appear more suited to inner urban site, rather than being directly relevant to big bush blocks
Lack of real planning for bushfire mitigation (fuel reduction etc)
Transparency and - of long term planning

GW doesn't protect critical infrastructure
Road for bushfire safety
Feral animal management
Weed management
Better access/ economic dev for tourism
Bushfire management (Superficial)
Better tourism infrastructure - Paths
NBN towers
Activists who do not understand rural life
Trying to control us
Look at land titles - every title should be allowed to build (within reason)
Too many restrictions
We feel that the green wedge areas need to be divided into several areas of differing needs. Areas of the UGB have different needs than the areas that are agricultural and have greater bushfire risks
Maintenance of the inner areas requires a lot more attention by both the owners and the council to maintain their side on the aqueduct and that mismanagement of the urban areas impact on the open land
The rates are becoming unmanageable taking into account all the other expenses needed to maintain the land in the Green wedge
Residents of Nillumbik who do not live in the Green Wedge should not have the right to tell us how to run our properties
5G rollout, NBN fixed wireless towers incompatible with ---

20 June - Nillumbik Business and Tourism Association

Not to love - want to change
Population pressure - High density townships - but protect the surrounding land. Allow the township to become much more high density around the train lines and the schools, amenities.
Need an additional train station between Eltham and Diamond creek to facilitate car parking for ? And allow housing density to develop around the stations
Improved public transport to Pantom hill/ St Andrews
Tourism accommodation needs to be enabled/ assisted, boutique hotels, farm stay accommodation, caravan parks.
Don't allow any further rural sub-divisions
Don't allow any further water retention to the cost of the water systems eg drying up creeks because too many dams
Clear up the contradictions with legislation/ guidelines for new tourism business
Lends itself to corruption
Amenities
Kangaroo management/ Deer management
Bushfires
River crossing points
No population growth
Farmers can be restricted

Economic restrictions
Pressure from urban growth
Urban rubbish
Incorporation of real tourism plan and real economic development
Barriers exist - Management plan council needs to enable pathways
Restrict the ring road
Division of the green wedge rural/urban
fire risk
Weed management
Rapid development of 'urban areas'
Public transport
Moonscape/ revegetation requirements
Renovations/ developments follow up inspections at completion
Sub division

27 June - Community

Overdevelopment and loss of land and trees etc. It needs to stop or be appropriately contained
Overdevelopment resulting in more traffic, pressure on infrastructure. Forced change is iritrievable
Loss of the urban growth boundary protecting the green wedge - We are already seeing market driven development of areas inside urban growth boundary
Pressure of residential development - Destroys natural environment, fragmentation of habitat
Constant nibbling away of the Green Wedge - development pressures, subdivisions. Green wedges are for the wider community & state benefit. Losses are irreversible
Controlling scale of built development/land use. Interfere with values that we treasure
Need to control environmental weeds/trees on all land. If not controlled it displaces and unbalances the eco system
Deer ! - cause damage to the environment and are a road safety risk
Bush fire prevention strategies - It is important to have appropriate reduction of fuel loads without affecting the beauty of the shire
Climate change and bushfire risks - Important because of threat to lives, threat to the environment and issues of access in emergencies eg. Warrandyte bridge
Traffic volumes is important because it affects quality of life / anonymity is negatively impacted
Noise and traffic pollution. We want clean air to breathe
Traffic volume and parking (especially the station) resulting from subdivisions. Congestion, public transport is inadequate, dependence on cars for mobility
Traffic congestion from neighbouring municipalities. Their lack of infrastructure becomes our problem
Concentration of wildlife - due to increasing subdivision. Need corridors to move around. Traffic hazards ? Contraception
Land management where rural properties meet suburbia. People think large properties are free for all
Loss of land for agriculture for food bowl and future food security of our residents. This is important because the community wont support local food production - for health

environment etc. Childhood obesity

The impact of the outcome of this review on climate change. Also because Nillumbik is a leader and sets a precedent for other councils

2 July - Landowners

Restriction - can't do within reason

Erosion

Lack of respect of wildlife

Trees (roadside)

Lack of independent living for aged and disability

Huge gums on median strips

Fire threats

Need to cull kangaroos

Need to cull deer and feral animals

Too many planning restrictions and officer agendas

Fire hazard caused by lack of roadside maintenance and clearing

Inadequate bike paths on main roads

Lack of maintenance on bushland blocks and build up of debris becoming a fire hazard

New overlays which devalue land - give compensation

Fire mitigation highest level of consideration

No public land to be disposed of

If house destroyed by fire, needs to be automatically allowed to rebuild

92% green wedge too much

Overlays without notice, arbitrary rules, impractical subdivision restrictions

Easier to manage smaller blocks

Infrastructure not to be banned due to trees etc.

Selection process a worry if council can disregard some who may want what they as a group do not

Family owned since 1952/1962 and wedge was forced upon us

Fire danger due to owners not being allowed to clean up fallen debris

Council not allowing clean up as required

Rules being applied by those with no knowledge of rural life

Two properties - 1 x 40 acres, 1 x 100 acres and limited to 20 acres which is fire danger for surrounding smaller properties

Why can't we subdivide subject to the smallest properties around that others were allowed in the past

Why can a person living in Toorak impose such restrictions on areas not in their area

Previous overlays as suggested made life on land untenable, obviously by people with more power than knowledge

Convincing people to value the bush

Reducing paranoia about bush fires

Incremental loss of vegetation

Insufficient planning controls to adequately protect the natural environment

Need ESO & SLO improvements

4 July – Equine community

Urban people deciding how rural should live and use their properties

High density living / congestion for traffic

More urban development in rural area ie. Melbourne water

Road maintenance lacking in areas

Roadside weed management

Planning processes can be overly tedious

Lack of enforcement of land maintenance for council land/private land - blackberries etc

Urban sprawl - increased traffic - fast, careless dangerous

Safe trails needed

Dead wildlife

Education of drivers - safety on rural roads/floats/horses too aggressive

Safe trails for people with disabilities

Conflict with urban and rural people with use ie. Bikes

Roads poor for the number of vehicles

Lack of habitat for wildlife

Concerns on restrictions placed on rural landowners

Displacement of wildlife with urban development

Reduced speed limits with cut through roads to protect wildlife

Warrandyte bridge restriction - one bridge not enough

Lack of appreciation for the role of grazing properties play in sustaining the green wedge

Traffic volumes and speed, narrow roads - trees right up to the edge of the bitumen

Funding provided to landcare - but not all land care groups farm/grazing interest most conservation/friends of group

Funding and education for sustainable grazing land

Public transport

Isolation for young/youth and elderly to access service centres

Discernable atmosphere of hostility toward horse community from some other community groups. They have a powerful, negative critical voice expressed to the community and at times within the council

Year round access to parks vic - fire trails

Attitude from parks vic is negative and positively aggressive against horse riders. We want to share all trails

Lack of driver knowledge and skills on rural roads and around animals

Our rural roads being used as commuter routes

People in urban areas telling rural land owners how they should manage their land

Installing infrastructure that increases amenities for rural activities like horse riding eg. Narrow roads with no trails or shoulder

Lack of connectivity between safe trails

Road Barriers

Debris on dirt roads - blocked drains

Allowing people to have 3 x containers, car bodies and rubbish on property - however need a permit to cut down a tree

Not able to remove dead trees from the side of roads (fire hazard)

Garbage collectors - ruin bins
Shooting of animals
Surburban growth - thefts - vandalism
Apartments - high density
Over population
Planning issues - overprotection of roadside trees on narrow roads
Small lots - can you build on them?
Rates unfair - not reflective of property costs ie. Most expensive in victoria
Cost of effective land maintenance ie. Capeweed etc
Drain on resources from residents outside Nillumbik from other shires (Whittlesea) ie. schools/childcare/sports/kinder
Having to prove existing use, right to keep more than two grazing animals
Having to produce land mangement plan with planting plans for grazing land
Increase in traffic flow using Nillumbik to travel through
Nillumbik council rate base is too small to manage area - consider allowing 10 acre subdivision
Conflict for horse riding on parks vic land
Kangaroos - apprant no control of mobs as their land habitat is converted into houseing estate - high collision rate
Putting in additional dam, shelters or manage cost, time and permits
Grazing land is not valued as iconic part of the green wedge landscape
Doreen area - hoons in carshot, rubbish on road, high rates
Rubbish dumping , including builders rubble
Fire roads closed to horse riding
Speedie garbage trucks
Too many kangaroos
Not being able to cut down dead gum trees
Being butted up against a growth corridor, should be a buffer zone between us and growth corridors
Lack of public transport to outer areas
Over grazing on unsuitable land - ie. Bush
Lack of information on land management.
Need better penalties for removal of trees
Not enough balance between common sense with permits
Plethora of permits required to maintain agriculture/horse properties
Lack of support for equine groups in the green wedge
Roadside verges need to become wide enough to encompass shared/safe off road trails
Little funding offered to Pony clubs and adult riding clubs for infrastructure or upkeep of grounds

9 July – CFA members

Public transport
internet
communications - technology

Lack of growth and development
restriction of development
access to medical facilities
lack of land management on roadsides
lack of situational awareness
postal delivery
lack of services
loss of contact of isolated people
unrepresented in a global sense
road access (bridges across river)
Communication re local attractions / activities
Not a lot for older residents
Increase in traffic from surrounding areas
Getting volunteers - aging population, more commuting population
Rules for land use often restrictive, contradictory
Different community groups have different strong opinions, desires for things to be done or not done
Change in demographics resulting in a lot of residents less bush-aware, less fire-aware
Narrow and winding country roads pose particular problems to emergency management
Local council - environment views, move away from original GW concept
Local council - planning system, lack of clear view, maintaining balance, roadside management
fire management
Road system - neighbouring development increased, road pressure 'rat runs'
Recruiting / engagement for volunteering
Infrastructure / roads
Balance between lifestyle / infrastructure / environment
Prioritising public works
Bureaucracy of public works
Major routes out of area very problematic - Warrandyte Bridge, Eltham Bridge, Plenty Road, Kinglake NP (to north)
Roadside rubbish increasing a lot (mcdonalds, building rubbish and hard rubbish)
No follow up by council when rules being broken
inconsistent follow up - council look after their mates, VCAT overriding council
Maintaining the base notion of The Green Wedge values
People not understanding that Nillumbik GW is one of nine green wedges, making Melbourne unique.
Urban sprawl
Lack of infrastructure planning to meet the GW needs
Green Wedge authority across all to ensure consistency of planning and management
Commitment to consistent planning
clear statement required re UGB remaining as is / or whatever
Education of community re Green Wedges

What are the biggest social challenges for the Green Wedge in the future?

12 June - Landowners
Isolation - young kids and elderly
Safety
homeless
Maintaining lifestyles
Transport
sporting facilities
Create employment
suitable accommodation and services for aging population
Transport challenges elderly / disabled / youth
Frequency and access to public transport
Mobile and NBN coverage
Home ownership - denial / difficulty to get approval
Employment
traffic movement
ageing population - appropriate residences
housing affordability due to costs of development applications
Mental health / relationship distress due to labyrinthine processes (maze-like)
Community disconnection. Rural isolation
Lack of child care / sporting / community number / placements - rely on neighbouring councils residents to make up numbers
Loss of hard rubbish. Death of community aspects surrounding the sharing of people's unwanted trash/treasure
Isolation of people
Lack of Community Services
Safety because of lack of services / amenities / police
Travel distances
No local hospitals - self monitoring / telehealth/videoconference
Age in place accommodation
Lack of activities for younger people
Crap internet connectivity and data
Many funding streams and community groups have been hijacked by environmentalists from out of area - Landcare is for local owners
Fragmentation of community - lack of community dialogue
Lack of compassion by many for bushfire victims as compared to passion supposedly expressed by ultra greens.
Recognition that people are far more important than any environmental concern.
14 June – Landcare members
Less opportunity for diverse social & cultural experiences
Relative isolation especially for young people and elderly (especially those

who don't drive)
Reduce 'take-away' food level of shire
Need more indoor sport facilities
Need passive recreational opportunities eg trails
Continue funding of library bus
Us versus them, township - rural conflict between different rural ideals.
Limited public transport for GW folk
Providing benefits for people without impacting GW values i.e environment, natural landscape.
Everything is seen in humans i.e how it benefits people vs intrusive value

16 June - Community

Lack of Public transport - ie: St Andrews, Arthurs Creek etc.
Aging landowners able to maintain financially
Cost of living - rates, utilities, petrol
Stay in community when get older
Cash strapped when growing older on RCZ
Don't get a say in what happens ie: Pioneer Road 68% wanted, 40% no.
Lot of early settlers being pushed out - look after land for 70 years
Housing choice - young and old
Children who want to run land have to move far away.

18 June – 'Friends of' groups

Needs of growing youth population
Need of the growing aging population
Council maintaining the public Green Spaces
Public Amenities eg toilets, bins, drinking water
Community's lack of knowledge eg re-biodiversity, our native plants and animals, lack of appreciation
Keeping residents connection to the flora, fauna and protection
Certain lack of tolerance sometimes between people with different interests.

18 June – Landowners

Need for recreation by non-Green Wedge dwellers to be conserved/provided
Flagging in place
Not enough Fire Safe areas - for pets, livestock, horses (people put themselves in jeopardy saving their animals)
Insufficient places of 'Last Resort' for people
Population growth
Selfish desire for 'more'
Lack of human connection
Lack of activities for youth
Provide safe cycling routes over all GW roads

Understand and conserve cultural values of place and - Justice issues
Landscapes, Protection/ views
Hoons on road
Drugs, alcohol, parties, - Illicit activities
Guns
Opportunities for youth age based health services
Lack of population numbers in outlying areas don't justify the necessary expenditure on infrastructure (ovals, clubs etc)

20 June - Nillumbik Business and Tourism Association
Ageing population accom - rural/ urban people wanting to stay in the shire
Different mindset urban vs rural eg new Doreen subdivision
Amenities
Public transport
Multi ? Sport
Internet and Comms generally
Population growth 'sprawl'
Nimby vs shared

27 June - Community
Property management
Education of landowners
Assistance to maintain rural lifestyle
Liveability/quality of life
Traffic congestion
Over development in urban areas, green wedge becomes more crucial to protect
Local services for rural residents
Capability of older residents to maintain larger properties in the green wedge zone
Ageing population in Nillumbik
Poor public transport options / connections
Changing lifestyles in urban areas - greater density, disconnection with green wedge values.
Intensive development creating more population without any connection with traditional culture/values of the shire

2 July - Landowners
Too much restriction on not allowing new residents to build and live in the green wedge
Difficulty in fighting the urban - attitude encroachment into green wedge areas
Continuing to support the aged and special needs residents to allow them the ability to stay in the green wedge longer
Common sense and practical subdivision to allow more residents to enjoy our nice area
Transport
Employment
Independent living

Infrastructure towards independent living
Not enough young people to look after properties

4 July - Equine community
Public Transport - especially schools and outer areas
Commitment from council to acknowledge equestrian activities
Ponyland to remain as an equestrian business
Been talked about for 50 years - Lets do it - Funding equestrian community need to lobby - but need support from council
Keeping committee group members and funding to run workshops for horse owners and land managers
Keeping young people engaged, riding and working on committees
People time poor

9 July – CFA members
Isolation of community sectors
Aging population / commuting population - where to get future volunteers?
Open space - aging population means people can be lost, no social services easily accessible
Development of sporting opportunities for all
Effective community engagement
Pressure to expand residential housing and loss of character
Feeder areas for local schools aging population / declining numbers
Road system challenged by weekend cyclists
Becoming more of admitory community
New residents may lack awareness of fire risks

What are the biggest environmental challenges for the Green Wedge in the future?

12 June - Landowners
Maintain existing usage / environ
Possible future development
Property maintenance / costs
Bushfire management
Make Council responsible for losses due to poor planning
Interests of landowners v renters and visitors
Maintain good access while still preserving environment
Rabbits, deer, foxes
Bushfire buffer zones
Council assistance for property management ie: weed and roadsides
second residences for aged / young families
Promotion of all GW businesses
Increased resources for Landcare groups (community benefits)

Initiatives to combat climate change - fires / floods
Bushfire expertise to consult - retro fitting for risks
Damage to land due to over population of native fauna
Bushfire
lack of environmental diversity
staying alive
No parking at beginning of walking tracks
Settled society / no longer hunters and gatherers therefore our land use should reflect our way of life
Controlling fuel loads
Over regulation at several levels for landowners
If the area burns badly again biodiversity is negatively impacted
Interpretation of property owners rights
Environment reigning supreme above all else!
Fire regs that will stop rebuilding of homes
Land owners must have control of their own land without fear of land acquisition
Population growth - 4mill to 8mill by 2050
Unmaintained bushland and spread to adjacent urban area is rising. Risk of catastrophic bushfire.
Uncontrolled growth - feral animals and intro'd weeds
Balancing safety with environmental protection
Authoritative identification of genuine areas of Env significance
Inconsistency between local land management regulation sentiment with state regulations
capacity to maintain the current environment - financial / regulatory = burdens
Balance to environment and growth
Nillumbik not pulling its weight accommodating population growth.
Hard rubbish, can no longer provide sharing of stuff. Rubbish now just piles up out the front of residents houses before being booked.

14 June – Landcare members

From 1970 to 2018 Melbourne's population has grown by 2.3mill. In 1970 the GW was valid, more than ever it will be important in the future!
Changing the mindset of land ownership with 'rights' to one of stewardship with responsibilities
Stopping Landholder putting grazing animals into bushland properties
Lack of council environment compliance
Absentee land owners who do not deal with weed issues
Inappropriate development and land clearing
Deer control (and others)
Climate change and using the precautionary principle.
Trail bikes should be monitored more closely and removed!
Stop Vic Roads 'Guard rails' - where no evidence of needing them
L7 kills wildlife / causes accidents with kangaroos

16 June - Community

Whittlesea council causes problems over development

Wildlife being pushed out

Plenty river overdeveloped

No notice taken of landowners i.e Diamond Creek trails

Bushfires

Govt bodies enforcing their regulations conditions i.e barriers on side of road and in centre of roads to stop u-turning, St Andrews not bushfire friendly/YJR send drivers up north 1.5km and then making them turn back south to escape - no idea of bushfires

18 June – 'Friends of' groups

Protections of the existing natural environment

Ownership of open spaces

Climate change - bushfire/flooding/wind damage

Housing design (fire resistant & sympathetic to environment)

Short term mindsets & goals for action

Pressure of growing population and housing needs

Increasing road traffic from growth corridor

Some peoples lack of knowledge of the environmental values of the GW & its wonderful plants and animals

Poor management of domestic animals (dogs, cats, horses etc)

Eliminate feral

Victoria is the most cleared state - don't make it worse!

Weeds and feral animals -Deer -Fox -Rabbits

Over development + Inappropriate -House size and look -Non Indigenous Charge trees
-Failure for erosion control

Bushfire management -Need to revegetate but also stay safe

Entrenched attributes of 'I will do what I like on my own land' (Individualism V Community benefit)

Degraded waterways and riparian zones

More MONEY to protect and enhance water, air and bush areas (from Feds, State and private citizens)

Lack of knowledge of present Council and Mayor

18 June - Landowners

Wildlife injury

Bushfire

Kangaroos

Thoughts/ differences between urban residents and rural landowners

The want to protect environment above all else

Waste management (road side rubbish) sewer V septic ...etc

Projection of human life and reducing bushfire risk should be high priority

Bushfire mitigation

Restrictive regulations

Fuel reduction (how on private land)
Protection human life, good escape routes, skinny roads
Weed control on bush blocks
Not all green wedge areas are the same within Nillumbik. Areas abutting the UGB are the ones enjoyed by the general public yet if looked at closely are the ones greatly neglected by Council and are a safety concern for the public - both in as far as rubbish and the danger the kangaroos place on walker. Also not to mention open aqueduct where we have seen on a couple of occasions children nearly falling in.
Weed management
Visual blight of comms towers (5G and NBN)
Bushfire management
Public Vs private land - don't have the same rules!
Feral animals/ Domestic - Dogs, cats, deer, foxes, rabbits
Balance of environment and bushfire regulations
Offset calculations and fees expensive and place challenges on owners
Council management of existing offsets

20 June - Nillumbik Business and Tourism Association

Melbourne's population pressure may make it harder to protect the Green Wedge in future
Victim of its own success - outsiders imposing change because they want they Green Wedge, to be part of it - but on their own terms. Eg Land banking
Climate change = Cause the 'pale yellow wedge' because of lack of rainfall
Wildlife problems - Plague properties e.g. feral deer's/ cats/ foxes/ rabbits/ Indian minors/ deer
Bushfire management
Cut through traffic via low ? Road (North Warrandyte)
Rubbish

27 June - Community

Continued loss of flora & fauna habitat
Loss of mature indigenous trees
Accessability to Green Wedge
Expected population growth acorss Melbourne
Provide road development to cater for traffic through these areas
Weekend bike riders on roads
Need to clean up rubbish throughout the shire
Landholders rates increasing unexpectantly and unrealistically
State Govt assistance/incentives to support protection of vegetation, communities and associated fauna
Managing wildlife eg. Kangaroos vs increased traffic
Maintaining platypus population in Plenty River etc.
Don't screw it up !!

2 July - Landowners

Bushfire risk
Trees too close to the roadside
Having some aspects of the community value the green wedge
Educating community on the value of natural environment
Incremental losses of vegetation and habitat
Feral animal control - especially deer
Inappropriate uses of bushland properties is on the increase - being treated as horse/grazing paddocks
Weed and blackberry control. Council should enforce residents to control them and fine residents who don't.
Wandering/roaming pets
Adopt a maximum ton/hectare allowed of forest debris on bush blocks and mandate cool burn firebreaks on such blocks, using indigenous fire methods
Understanding the natural environment and wildlife
Understand conditions
Appreciate the bushfire risks
Eradicate feral animals and weed infestations
Shire wide eradication of Burgan!
Ensuring the fire-fearful in the community realise they are not chained to their properties ... and that the bush pre-dates all of us !
Council expect landowners to clear blackberries and other weeds but leave infested road sides, please clear this.

4 July – Equine community

Reducing the RCZ4 to RCZ3 - will limit open farm land opportunities and instas
Education of equine landowners of how to better maintain their land - sustainability - weed control
New people putting grazing animals into bush blocks
Professional fireworks
Nillumbik council regulations
Narrow roads with no room for tracks
Lack of appreciation for the value of grazing land and the role it plays in sustaining the Nillumbik green wedge
Fewer shooters
How to keep roadsides clear of debris for fire safety
Treating wombats with mange
Neighbours who don't look after their land
People buying land unsuitable for the use ie. Full bush block to graze animals

9 July – CFA members

Fire - If do roadside burns, what about the other side of the fence? (private property)
Complexity of concept of burns and what to do, when and where. And then the regulations, and depending on what outcome you want.
Understanding and accepting that there will always be fire risk in GW and adjacent areas, and different risks in different areas. That's part of choosing to live here.

Egress - main roads and Yarra crossings
Perceived risks versus real - sometimes polarising
Personal responsibility towards fire
Land clearing - once it's gone we can't get it back!
Maintaining our local environment in face of development
Control / prevention of feral introduced animals
Lack of Council responsibility for road reserves where no road currently exists (lines on maps only)
Surrounding councils
GW - largely regrowth not pristine forest
Need to actively manage fire risk
Climate change - increased fire risk
Age range (or lack of) in forests ie for habitat

What are the biggest economic challenges for the Green Wedge in the future?

12 June - Landowners
Ensuring future commercial / business investment increases in the area (hindered by the lack of planning to increase population density)
Planning scheme restrictions are not conducive to Economic growth (does not encourage new business / investment initiatives)
No new rate payers - stagnant growth
Lack of development (both local residential and commercial). Need to live and work close by to avoid traffic burden and congestion. Melbourne shifting to community / local employment opportunities. Need to move in line with this.
Manage traffic congestion
Increased costs to property owners
increase urban growth boundary
Landowners carry financial burden of providing vistas for tourists - should be user pays (govt)
Cost of maintaining properties (time and money)
Maintaining lower rates
Paying increasingly high rates with aging population
Affordable fees for sporting clubs
Increase rate base responsibly
Rates
Regulation (including direct costs) permits etc
infrastructure (lack of)
Restrictions on land use and businesses in green wedge
tourism restrictions
Environmental degradation
Restriction of building
Lack of people / growth

Uncertainty for investment by businesses and landowners)
Poor services
High rates
Economic viability for landholders, primary production etc
Pretty expensive to maintain property in rural areas - add rates and debt servicing too - it's quite a burden.
Selling not always financially viable due to poor asset growth (rest of Melb 150%, our place 16%)
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No camping location next to trails
Over regulation for opening a business or land use changes
Frustration to barriers causing depression among rate payers.

14 June – Landcare members

Costs to maintain the natural environment for benefit of future generations
GW has low rate revenue so needs alternative resources
Forced out b/c development & greed
Coordination of funding through cohesion of groups eg MW, parks, council
Tourism that is of a suitable scale & fit a Green Wedge Shire.
Vic Govt grants commission to recognise N.S.C as a rural shire.
Supports recreational tourism
Decision of other shires affecting our environment eg Mirundundi > Coca Cola
Property prices don't increase in line with inner city inflation (financially we are at a relative stand-still here. But that is not why we chose to live here.)
stand-still here. But that is not why we chose to live here.)

16 June - Community

Small businesses being pushed out
Rates
Population not big enough to sustain small business
Create business however parking is limited.
People have to move out of area for more work
Extra traffic
Oldest population opponents however need to move out when roads & rates are so high. Sad when pioneers have looked after a preserved land.

18 June – 'Friends of' groups

High land value - NSC is very lucrative PMZ for developers (most of which don't even live in this shire) nor do they provide for the low income population
Greed
Tourism as the new gold rush
Infrastructure pressures

Where do we put a 3rd Yarra River crossing? (Between Fitzsimmons & W'Dyte)
Make city of Whittlesea & city of Manningham provide infrastructure for their residents ie Doncaster light rail etc.
Lack of money
Peter Clarke
Tourism developments (too much)
Not to cut down old growth/regrowth to create large broad acre business development
The belief/mantra that economic growth is the goal of society
The belief that GW should be 'utilised' (exploited) to make money.
The views that the economic attributes of the GW are as important as its social & environmental attributes
The view that owners of small lots in the GW should have the right to 'develop' them ie put up buildings
Council officers appear not to have the reasons/budget to follow up issues
Lack of Money
Peter Clarke
Tourism Development (ie too much)
Not to cut down old growth/ regrowth to create large broadacre business development
The belief/ mantra that economic growth is the goal of society
The belief that the G.W. should be 'utilized' (exploited) to make money
The view that the economic attributes of the G.W. are as important as us its social + environmental attributes
The view that owners of small lots in the G.W. should have the right to 'develop' them. I.e. put up buildings
Council officers appear not to have the resources/ budget to follow up issues
Monetary/ process, support. Monitoring of impact
Funding the care of the G.W.

18 June - Landowners
Funding base (rates) inadequate for future vision
Prioritising expenditure increased costs associated with future regulation
GW funding base should be state based, It should not be The private or Council only
Maintaining Green wedge areas for the benefit of others without any financial assistance from Council or residents within UGB and this will only become more costly with extra restrictions placed by Council
Planning permit applications extraordinary expense and suffer from the whims of Council Officers
Transport
Road surfaces
Vegetation
Water
Balance between encouraging more visitors and managing their impact - traffic, rubbish
The area loses a lot of opportunities for functions. Conferences etc because of lack of adequate accommodation - resorts, motels
Rates

Too many political overtones
5G rollout, no more towers (Please)
Fair maintenance of green wedge
Feral Animals
Vegetation (weeds)
Fire management
Access and safety roads
Passing lanes (emergency)
Weed Management

20 June - Nillumbik Business and Tourism Association

Demographics - empty nesters gone - young families
Congestion = Roads and ? X
Tourism/ economic policy
Local jobs
Rate base
Transport
Farmworker/ seasonal workers 457 visas don't apply to this area eg pickers, because too close to the city
Population growth on subdivided land prevents normal agricultural farming eg spraying/ bird sq workers

27 June - Community

Sustainable rate base
Ensuring land use relates to land capability
Affordable housing
Attract businesses to the shire to create employment and tourism opportunities
Need to reduce council debt without causing negative impact on resident
Hobby farms are not agricultural enterprises - measures to encourage enterprise should be carefully targeted
Over population
Roads and infrastructure for the area
Lots of noisy individuals that feel they have a right to deny families the enjoyment of open space living

2 July - Landowners

Financial, paying rates on grazing properties
Most jobs in the same concentrated areas leading traffic congestion
Traffic Management - Main Road Research/Eltham

4 July – Equine community

Rates - (rate rises will push out farmers/families/historic connections to district)
Council regulations
Financial incentive through rates for 'hobby farmers' managing their land well

Allowing business not just equine to operate in green wedge
Promotion of equine businesses
Maintenance/fencing of private properties in the rural area
Respect for wildlife needs, particularly with suitable fencing
Cost of maintaining property - rabbit pin done
Weeds etc. can be a challenge
Community benefit - less and health care

9 July – CFA members
Regulatory Restrictions combining economic prosperity with environmental sustainability
Housing affordability for future generations
Business opportunities in isolated locations
Maintaining employment opportunities.
Qualify local jobs
What are the jobs of the future? How do we attract them to Nillumbik?
Grow population without losing habitat and biodiversity
Cost of shire providing services with small rate base

What are the biggest regulatory challenges for the Green Wedge in the future?

12 June - Landowners
Overcoming town planning overlays
intense restrictions - 20 acre min lots
compliance procedures and costs (oppressive and ever changing)
Over governance and Excessive micromanagement
fire and housing permits incompatible
Excessive costs and time in going through procedures
Maintain rights of rate payers / residents over visitors / transient populations of demographics
Too many rules
State interference
Consistency of Regulations
Over regulation
Reduce red tape
Outside influences
Regs that suit both townships and rural
Professional stirrers and agenda pushers
Lack of trust
Officers who treat residents with respect
A corrupted system
Cost of applying for permits and ongoing applications
Feels like landowners have body corporate ;oP

Officers more open with information when asked questions about regulations. Would be good to have a standard / same response from public facing staff officers.
lack of transparency
Frustration of landowners leading to depression and a sense of hopelessness. Personally experienced!
Nothing gets done to make it easier for land owners.
Providing for reasonable logic and common sense that comes with years of experience in managing land in a green wedge setting.
Loss of grazing land with constant push for revegetation
Local accommodation of local bushfire risk (one size does not fit all)
Council not held accountable for outcomes of regulations
Residents ignoring regulations
Permit system is weighted against applicant
law makers make policy and law based on idealism - our lived experience is based on reality - they are different

14 June – Landcare members

Maintaining uniformity across the board (Same rules for everyone!!)
Short sighted (short term goals) for sitting on regulatory boards.
Keeping regulatory stability over time and different councils and state governments
Poor levels of Council enforcement especially environmental damage
Having the wider populace understand the importance of planning controls including overlays
Long term commitment to consistent planning that supports environment & biodiversity

16 June - Community

Not able to subdivide property - initially was able to into 15 acre lots but no longer can. Therefore children who could have lived on land need to move somewhere else.
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18 June – ‘Friends of’ groups

Developers don't have governmental checks and balances & ignore regulations
Lack of enforcement at all levels of govt - serious penalties are needed
Vague planning provisions - inconsistent decisions & wasted expense eg ESO1 conditions
Too much responsibility on objectors to enforce the planning scheme
Climate change
Access to legal aid help
Domestic pet control
Poor information from Council Re: Vegetation management on private land. Incl BMO
S.P.P. amendment VC140 (Leads to vegetation loss)
Priority must be given to waterways. The iconic Yarra River under threat
Poor information on Council's website - Survey was impossible to find - Contradictory information
Planning should not be 'tick the box' but take environmental protection seriously on individual

case where protection is needed but time to chance 'zone' takes to long for biodiversity protections. 10 day Vicsmart bad for protection

18 June - Landowners

Overcome officer resistance to planning permits for new home

Take another look @ what areas do not belong in Green Wedge - Especially abutting UGB

Should be able to build a house on a title of land even if undersized i.e. rural, conservation land

Reduce

Adhering to worlds best practice while being conscious of cost and needs of community

No flattening of bush

Supporting sustainable accommodation

TOO Political - govt, council 'churn' activities with little knowledge

Reliant on private rather than public money to protect GW

Increase state govt responsibilities and involvement for GW

*difficulty of working with organisations that have a single focus

Dual occupancy - no follow through to ensure old house demolished when new build

STOP HOONS

20 June - Nillumbik Business and Tourism Association

Regulatory contradictions and overlays preventing development of tourism business - need to be cleaned up

regulation stifling sympathetic tourism development and activity

Planning applications are approved, but not enforced 'enforcement' need to be taken seriously

State govt may be pressured to reduce the Green Wedge footprint due to population pressure

State regulations and counter interpretation

Balance living with landscape

Renovate/ review restrictions

common sense'

Appeal process

27 June - Community

State regulations re building and development - VCAT process

Convince council/state govt to stop/drastically slow development

State /Federal Govt assistance to support shire viability due to commitment to green wedge environment

Green wedge treated overall not individually by council (state govt)

Control of discretionary use in green wedge zones to limit bulk and scale of development consistent with the purposes of the green wedge zones

Actually enforce environmental protection education

2 July - Landowners

Control by council on land size - restrictive
Permit owners of historical/pasture/grazing land to run a small herd of animals rather than just the permitted two animals - so land remains productive and well cared for
Having all residents on 'same page' when it comes to the need for planning controls to ensure the survival of our precious green wedge into the future
Pay rates once a year, not 4 times a year. (Yarra Valley)
Change mindset of regulators to embrace residential use inside green wedge on existing titles
Being able to replace what a bushfire takes without years of fighting
Speed limit on Christmas Hills road is too slow, it makes it dangerous. Some sit on 60 km with 20 cars behind them, should be overtaking lanes

4 July – Equine community

Rates
Planning permits - getting advice, clarity
Control of rubbish - dumping on roadsides
More hard rubbish opportunities - may help with above
More consistent road speeds along the same road
Groups wanting to dismantle the green wedge concept for monetary gain
Potential overdevelopment of rural areas
Informing documents produced by council officer on issue, need to be objective and evidence based and not value judgement
That council documents/amendments have re-written history and not been truly reflective of what is 'on the ground'
Permit for more than two grazing animals
Micro management of farm land

9 July – CFA members

Over regulation means responsibility abicated
Inconsistent shire planning
Protect the country feel
Balancing development with what makes a green wedge area
Lack of regulatory planning consistency across all of Melbourne's green wedges
Community is charaterised by a small number of feeder roads (congestion and egress)
Forward planning
Decision making process - need ot be nimble with clear visability of process
Planning process derailed by vocal minority to detriment of the majority
Being meaningful at a state level

What social opportunities do you think there are for Nillumbik's Green Wedge in the future?

12 June - Landowners
Resilience building in community
Sustainability - food supply
promote business zones / jobs
Social / recreation facilities
Support for local community groups / self help groups to encourage community cohesion
Make it easier to accommodate multi generations on land so owners can age in place
Internet - data and connectivity
Aged care facilities
Employment opportunities
range of community programs eg: sporting / recreational
single title properties must be released with building permits
Simplify and fast track processes
Introduction of fast track provisions (14 days)
As of right provisions
Reduce application cost requirements from myriad reports etc
Reintroduction of CFO fireguard groups for encouragement of social integration
Allow dual occupancy on large blocks
To provide infrastructure to support property owners and businesses.
To allow some development to downsize
Community groups eg: local history, sporting (not action groups with agendas)
Housing options for aging - really hard to get permits - make it easier.
Creating intergenerational learning spaces
Make sugarloaf dam more of a destination (kiosk, parking, activities) with locally sourced goods from the Yarra Valley etc. It's already popular, why not make money off it for community development or fundraising for things like the pony club or CFA
Fireguard support
To be heard! And advice to be taken by Council from experienced landowners.
There is a difference between 'lives and livelihoods' and 'we like the look/feel' of the green wedge - interest are not the same. The plan must recognise this.
Fix road surfaces and carriageways.

14 June - Landcare members
Providing diverse groups eg Landcare - activity educate community
Provide a shared culture for the appreciation of the natural environment.
Exposure to indigenous culture & learning
Maintain ranking as a healthy & fit population
More support for community groups such as arts, gardening, new mums
Maintain cohesive townships & communities
Maintain township festivals
Support for maintaining St Andrews market.

Encourage gardening and healthy lifestyles through food swaps.
Build a culture of custodianship where we are proud to take responsibility for its care
Improved/safer cycling
Be the area of choice for people who love nature

16 June - Community

Tourism (wineries / arts)
Free up some land for unique retirement villages
environmentally friendly
open spaces
free up some land ie; 8 acres cut up to allow families to live close

18 June – ‘Friends of’ groups

Increased participation in community groups eg walking, birdwatching etc.
Joint support for Manningham environmental feature. Indigenous culture and education
Teaching children, young adults and new residents to respect the environment and to understand
Public space for enjoying the environment including passive usage
Utilise local community groups to maintain environmental assets.
Dog barking control and pet control
Educate residents on elements of noise and light pollution
Opportunities for affordable living for long term residents + low income people

18 June – Landowners

Resolve fixed positions/conflicts among community
Live in communities that are connected environmentally, inter-personal, townships as villages.
Continue funding for walking & cycling paths through the GW - Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge
Encourage landscape & 'friends of' environment groups
Keep out residents - they needn't move due to aging
Promote and encourage our Arts community - don't sterilise our neighbourhoods
Run this sort of format in schools eg EHS
Walking paths with seating for ageing citizens
Opportunities for youth activities
Support for low-economic residents
Non urban style if site development and use of style
Current Melbourne water mass land sell-off could be managed to enhance rather than carve up G.W.
Sense of community
Welcoming new landowners who move here because they want to meld with the community and land users
Building friendly relationships between town and country dwellings and sharing this community values of openness, hospitality and inclusion

Utilise education structures (schools etc) to gain input from youth - Give them topics to come up with ideas on: What would make them stay in the area
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20 June - Nillumbik Business and Tourism Association

A second home on larger properties without subdivision for property/ farm management for aging landowners

Education different social groups on Green Wedge living

Healthy living/ open spaces

Sport/ Reserves

Ethnic diversity

Model of excellence as a region of how this Green Wedge is managed
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A centre of broad form recreation and respite for city - Dwellers who are entitled to share in out good luck (our lifestyle)
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27 June - Community

Co-housing /collaborative land management eg. Like round the pond

Equestrian acitivity

Livestock keeping

Recreational trails - shared use - horse riding, cycling, walking

More youth services

Winter bonfire nights

Support services for older residents living / wanting to remain on larger properties rather than being forced to downsize

Encourage more friends groups/landcare groups - (Landcare is predominately environmental focussed).

Community town fairs encouraged. Other events: Winter Solstice, Jazz Fesitval - Arts, Heritage
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Yes! Celebrate the Green Wedge

2 July - Landowners

To allow more residents to live and enjoy by granting of right permits to build

Give net community benefit and greater community involvement
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More people help fund better services and infrastructure and reduce rates

Disability

Ageing population

Encourage young families to take over the caretaking land

Improving services available to ageing population - home help

Community groups - eg. CFA/Sport

Educate through a schools program about wildlife and habitat
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4 July – Equine community

Retirement villages

Equestrian centre - indoor and x country
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Riding clubs having same status as cricket and football/netball/basketball and funding
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Equestrian centre - Kangaroo Ground tip, Yarrambat Park
Promote equestrian landcare groups to the wider community
Acknowledge that riding is a significant recreational/active lifestyle pursuit for women and girls who are under represented in recreational spend by council.
Riding supports active ageing and recreation into old age

9 July – CFA members
Community engagement
Welcome environmentally friendly new residents
Local communities
Improved facilities for rural communities - not all focussed on Eltham
Top class facilities to service aging population
Nature of community has meant a lot of clubs need to be self reliant
Education / natural experience
New residents - education for nature , landcare, fire
Learning from experiences of community (especially fire)

What environmental opportunities do you think there are for Nillumbik's Green Wedge in the future?

12 June - Landowners
Education - multiple opportunities
To allow land owners to plant a diverse range of trees and plants
Business development of Tourism
Stop being so precious about the environment above all else
Local agriculture
Local accommodation (eco tourism)
Changes which give property holders more self determination regarding safety, fencing, land use etc
Improve property owner rights
Sensible outcomes for property development
Restoration of land use rights
Value grazing land / cleared pasture as much as vegetated areas - they underpin the GW too
Capitalising on our natural environment with low key, boutique tourism experiences and experiential visitation.
Meaningful proactive bushfire preparation being the responsibility of all those who plant trees (vic roads / DELWP / Melb Water/ offset scheme owner operators)
Value the significant contribution on small landholders ie: 20acres make to sustaining our green wedge vs a punitive, restrictive approach which doesn't value experience and history.
Enhancement and encouragement of rural vistas
Maintain and expand farmland
Introduction of as of right provisions to increase bushland safety
Revisit identification of areas of genuine environmental significance
Recalibration of local and state land management laws

Get the balance right - encourage growth capacity and environmental (harmony in development)
Make use of 2-4 hectare lots for housing which allows adequate management of land.
Remove retrospective regulation
rural residential

14 June – Landcare members

Join a community that works together to create a more resilient social and natural environment.
Bring nature to the broader community
Improve habitat connectivity across shire
To show that humans and natural environment can co-exist well.
Opportunity for Nillumbik to become the best maintained GW in metro area
Sustainability is not good enough. Need to reverse decline of biodiversity and maintain long term commitment to consistent planning laws.
Adopt aboriginal burning with traditional owners to replace standard controlled burns for fuel reduction.
Nillumbik GW is a major conduit for streaming nature to Melbourne
Councillors reading DELWP: Protecting Victoria's Environment Biodiversity 2037
Nillumbik GW is the most place to live... for nature, flora & fauna

16 June- Community

Good life
Peaceful
Clear air
More community involvement
Stagger development i.e urban, smaller lots onto GW.

18 June – 'Friends of' groups

Substantial regenerations/replanting
Education regarding environment, aboriginal heritage, knowledge and recovery
Education of environment enhances peoples enjoyment of it including friends groups
Fire bunkers for home owners in GW to reduce pressure for CFA etc.
To hold a very big picture, long term vision eg: 7 generation philosophy (what our descendants 7 generations forth ask of us today)
Aboriginal fire management practices - cool burns at right season and times for preserving biodiversity.
City dwellers experiencing nature - critical to their decisions voting on environment questions.
Education - Flora and Fauna + development - Livestock
Proactive input from Council staff to help educate residents who don't understand weed control or amenity
Protect the special open space, trees, animals and feel of the unique area

Keep It green
Enforce existing regulations!
Make fines for environmental vandalism to be - enough to prohibit this crime
Create more habitat - This will help counter climate change
Weed control
Revise 10/30 rules. On a day like Black Saturday NO house is defensible. Leave home
Don't put any more people's in danger by allowing more development in G.W.
Environment study centre linked to universities
Projects to study Tuans or learn how to best propagate cherry -

18 June - Landowners

More people = more opportunities
Lifestyle living
Promote 'our' lifestyle by allowing previously titled land to be built on
Council to support collection of wood for heating as a way of helping mitigate fire risk
Council used to assist landowners with weed management but no longer do
Reduce GH gases - promote wood heating AG note: AG1347
Use fuel reduction (bushfire) timer for wood heating!
Regulation that are applicable to help land managers reduce bushfire risk on the land
Exploit - / landscapes
Encourage participation tourism
Sustain original/ values of the green wedge - sustainability, 'custodians of the land'
Engage with land owners to enable them to live and build sustainably and in a way that preserves the varied environment rather than surrendering it to weeds and feral animals and bushfires

20 June - Nillumbik Business and Tourism Association

Wildlife pathways and safe crossings as per European model
To preserve what we have - open space/ vegetation/ flora and fauna/ beauty/ unique Australian characteristics
Extended what we have and share with others, and educate them as to the value of having, retaining what we have
Eco tourism - surrounding settlements
Indigenous species - plants/ animals
Water management/ usage

27 June - Community

Change of laws re developments throughout to reflect community
Land use across the shire zoned according to capability. Most remaining vegetation on poor quality land for instance and should be protected by strict ESOs.
Trails to enjoy environment, access for horse riding, cycling, walking through reserve systems and specific trails.
Protection of wildlife corridors. Kangaroo population growing at an alarming rate with little control, creating road hazards

Charge 'Developers' a lot more - some of which supports the local environment (more than present).

2 July - Landowners

Time to update and improve the ESO schedules while we still have something to protect

Habitual protection and education of the community

Erosion

Cats and foxes

Education

Appreciating where we live

Respect the natural environment

Private landowners having the ability to chop dangerous trees down without fear of fines

Allow landowners to properly maintain their properties without need for planning permits

4 July – Equine community

Value and support through rates, the agricultural managers / livestock, horticultural to be able to retain large scale farms

To open more trails and link up from Watsons Creek round to Buttermans, including yards etc to encourage people to come to the area for horse riding

Trails along Plenty River behind Yarrambat Park

Horse yards at local wineries and pubs to encourage rides and lunch days

Maintain grazing land

Roadside clearing to prevent road closures during bushfire events

Slow traffic on roads to prevent wildlife kill

Plan for safe off road access when sealing/repairing roads

Value the grazing land, open pasture country as much as the vegetated areas. Grazing land keep animals where they should be - on grass

Stop the incessant push to revegetate every square inch of grazing land

Feral animal control - eg. Deer rabbits and foxes

Bushfire management and education

Protect the bush and pasture of the green wedge

9 July – CFA members

Fire - role of controlled burns and research into longer term impacts (ie: weeds) including groups like Landcare involvement

Fire - different types of burns (enviro, fuel reduction)

Education to new residents, younger residents about fire risks - the history, & the role of CFA/SES etc

Housing strategy - where can development go?

Empower communities to understand fire risks and make decisions especially on whether to stay or go.

World's best practice on environmental strategies to save the Biodiversity

Maintaining accessible natural environment

Maintain intact ecosystems and biodiversities - wildlife corridor

Alternative land management strategies
Engagement with landowners on environmental planning
Making use of our environmental access to develop opportunities economic/social/sporting
Indigenous fire management (burns)

What economic opportunities do you think there are for Nillumbik's Green Wedge in the future?

12 June - Landowners
Planning scheme amendments to accommodate more business opportunities ie: Yarra Valley is full of wineries and B&B's with a thriving economy, living off the land. Nillumbik does not encourage or support this and is too restrictive in its requirements.
Ring Roads
Another river crossing now (more in future)
Govt to subsidise landowner costs to maintain their properties
Tourism for hunting to control deer, fox and rabbits.
Amalgamation of local rural shires
More equitable rating "affordable public housing"
Elderly accommodation
Housing for elderly / retirement villages / nursing homes
Promotion of small business
Business precincts
value add existing assets
Fund Trails - bought \$ to Yarra Ranges and Yea area.
Environmental education
Lots of land available for use
To adhere to GWMP when building for the future eg: grow the towns, provide infrastructure, live local, shop local, provide opportunities to downsize as per GWMP
Improve and give residents similar opportunities to many other councils across Australia.
Multiple houses on one title
Community Housing Compounds
Camping opportunities to take advantage of trail network - Edendale / Rob Roy for eg:
Encourage specialty "low key" visitation - bike riding, horse riding, walking, painting, winery visits, cooking, art, etc

14 June – Landcare members
Local small scale food production - low food near & organised & fresh
Eco-raised tourism
Investment in bioplan 37 goal of connecting people to nature
Leading the way in accounting for values, over environment assets (bioplan 37)
Create a Green Wedge authority for all wedges & source funding
Attracting funding from local and state governments for maintaining Green Wedge.
Health & wellbeing from being in a natural environment.
Smaller scale housing that fits the environment.

Energy efficient
House people in more sustainable way

16 June - Community

Light industry - for jobs, traffic, public transport is good
Create more business for young people

18 June – ‘Friends of’ groups

Working from home
Small scale eco-tourism
Interpretive/ educational experience of nature and climate change
Encourage bushwalking groups
Hurst could be spa/alternative health, yoga, meditation etc.
Duplicate Rail line from G'boro to Hurst (therefore less pressure on road infrastructure) - and more parking places at train stations
State government support for money eg: support for agriculture
Tourism impacts
Support for Indigenous businesses and agriculture (small scale) by Indigenous groups
Environmental Tourism - Monetary / process support, monitoring of impact.
Local, home-based small business
River based activities - low impact - to educate people about the importance of our river & its tributaries
Put overlays on river & tributaries make the environment have more value to community
State government support for money eg: support of agriculture
Tourism development (low impact/ eco tourism)
Support for indigenous businesses and agricultural (small scale) by indigenous groups
Environmental tourism
Local, home-based small business
River based activities - low impact - to educate people about the importance of our river + its tributaries
Put overlays on river + tributaries make the environment have more value to community
Nillumbik being an example in being fiscally responsible whilst caring for a precious piece of the natural landscape

18 June - Landowners

Tourism - Council to work in conjunction with operators to build 'suitable' tourism opportunities
Utilise community groups (club) and their vol...
More co-operative ventures with community banks industries etc
Create signature manufacturing opportunities re-invent reason for public to stop in Nillumbik rather than drive through to Yarra Valley
Smaller blocks (where appropriate) More people, less bushfire risk, Better controlled landscapes, more rates for Council to maintain other areas
Better internet services means better business opportunities (Home based etc)

Change green wedge boundary to increase rate base
Tourism - ease to build small scale enterprises, bike trails, horse trails, accommodation , B&B, wineries, gold mining, arts, farm stays
Simplify permit process, planning and building
Remove unfair financial burdens from owners of undeveloped blocks of land

20 June- Nillumbik Business and Tourism Association

New housing models - village surrounded by fields and open spaces/ service/ 'age in' ????
Food intensive agriculture/ tourism/ wineries and cideries/ artisan
Public transport improvement eg mini buses
More and + frequency of hours of tourism operation
Employment opportunities due to tourism growth
Destination for food/ farming units/ local produce/ trails/ bike riding

27 June - Community

Promote niche agricultural soil-based sustainable activities consistent with farmers markets
Community supported agriculture social enterprise opportunities (or similar sustainable food production in green wedge - eg. Food forests)
Further sustainable and appropriate services to the community
Realistic UGB that provides for sustainable development and higher rate base that allows for urban and rural buffer
Unique environment so close to Melbourne - opportunities for low impact activities to draw people in.
Controlled eco-tourism: B&Bs
Assess limits of economic capability in the Shire and tailor strategies to fit within these limits. Resources are not unlimited. There is a finite constraint

2 July - Landowners

Lobby state govt for green wedge funding as providing eco-services to greater melbourne community
Ongoing support for local festivals and events - brings visitors to the municipality!
Rate amounts
Plan traffic management prior to planning eg. The unit/apartment builds in Eltham
Pragmatic subdivision rules would increase rates and revenue
Rates - manage to reflect services

4 July – Equine community

Support landowners to maintain pastures ie. Weed control subsidy and erosion control (fencing, stabilisation)
Allow dual occupancies on properties of a suitable size. Keeping families together (Granny flats)
Light industrial in Hurstbridge for equine business hub
Purpose built indoor equestrian arena for use of clubs (hire) - P.P.P - Private and public partnership
Increase rate base by allowing subdivision of larger properties

Allow properties to have communal equestrian facilities to reduce the number of ertainas and other buildings
Tourism - local equine businesses can assist promotion of the area
Funding by council for various tourism businesses
Funding by council for local community: groups - parks eg. Sugar loaf
Council's pest /plant management program
We have a 'farm' rate to recognise broad acre properties
What about a smaller 'hobby farm' rate for those landholders who demonstrate sustainable benchmark property management?
More B & Bs for visitors
More safe bike tracks and riding trails

9 July – CFA members
Farm / nature - weekend tourism
Employment in suitable industries for a green wedge ie: Tourism, eco tourism, etc
Passive tourism, recreational activities trails open space
Improved infrastructure to support home business
Infrastructure to support 'green' activities (horse riding, hiking, mountain biking, better trails)
Government / fed-state contributing toward costs on their land
Install 1st world services ie: gas / internet cable

What regulatory opportunities do you think there are for Nillumbik's Green Wedge in the future?

12 June - Landowners
Simplified Regulation
Realistic Regulation
Plain English Regulation
Common Sense to prevail! (see bushfire regs)
Create different regs for rural areas
Infill development opportunities for fringe priorities
Simplify regulations
clarify regulations
reduce ideology
easing workable and inexpensive not revenue raising
remove deer for sake of flora (hunting opportunity)
Time limit of 60 days for processing application
50% of all land management activities as of right (remove from planning)
25% licenced systems (14 days simple process)
25% simplified traditional planning process
Entire planning recalibration represented above -> 50/25/25
Remove subjective assessments from Council
Allow greater comm/resi development to increase rate base
Allow infill development (land anomalies)

82% of blocks are under the zone sizes, make 82% at zone size
Enabling the application of reasonable judgement and common sense in managing small properties
Protecting small grazing properties and valuing cleared pasture as much as vegetated areas.
All law at all levels must prioritise human life and assets
Lawmakers and supporters should be under pinned by personal responsibility that does not punish landowners - if you expect us to forgoes rights and asset value - pay us!
Give people with new BMO over properties ability to better protect home and families
Law must be fit for purpose and for local connections and circumstances
Fair and accurate descriptions of situations evidence based factual and not judgemental. I.e.; In reports (council)

14 June – Landcare members

Protection of Environment / green wedge
Evidence based policy that is future proof to ensure sustainability.
Opportunity to be leader - showcase environmental design.
Use regulation as a values educational device
Establish strong planning controls and enforce them.
Update and improve our ESO schedules!
Add an SLO
Introduce Precautionary principle eg: Climate change - refer biodiversity 2037
Create a GW authority and a funding stream.
Encourage small sustainable housing that fits the land to house people with minimal impact to environment - actively promote, educate and encourage

16 June - Community

Better balance
Net gain - need to fix in order to get a permit

18 June – ‘Friends of’ groups

State govt to legislate for better protection of environment
Govt to put more money into environmental protection in GW.
Put restrictions on population growth in areas of environmental importance
Prioritise environment in education programs starting at school level
Make planning scheme more accessible
Provide information more easily
Searchable VCAT cane history
To make available planning hypotheticals to make the planning process more transparent and quicker
Inclusion of social housing
Provide clear, quality information to land/ home owners
Hold current UGB in to perpetuity (@ both State Government and Local Government levels)
Remove tree clearing along fence line provision

Opportunity for council and employees to proactively assist in resolving issues under discussion
Regulatory approach and priorities should be 1/ Environment 2/ Social 3/ Economic (This should apply to the scope of grief to the panel)
Enforce permit conditions and -
Time limit to 'can - use'. - Actually educate - so they don't get angry. Respect C.P.P

18 June - Landowners

To recommend changes to planning scheme to support as of right provisions for property maintenance, building and re building after fire. To enable existing infrastructure to be utilized for growth rather than pushing population out at a cost to all
Reducing size of questionable properties near UGB will facilitate better maintenance of more funding for Council
Many existing titles already exist that aren't built on
There's land that's inside urban growth boundary that is incorrectly zoned
Officers should in GW
Reduce permit conditions
Landowners should have more say in how their land is managed
To allow landowners appropriate but fair use of their land
Best Practice from others 1/ Green wedge of Mornington Peninsular 2/ Melb water Yarra Plan * 3/ other states eg WA NSW
APZ in bushfire prone areas
Clarify, transparency of planning schemes, fairness for landowners, consider rights of landowners
Recognition of cost of ? Green wedges - Public, funded privately, benefit those outside the GW - use, but don't maintain/ contribute
Regulation appropriate to living in high risk bushfire situation. We need knowledge and understanding and action
Learn from past failings

20 June - Nillumbik Business and Tourism Association

Protect the existing Green Wedge through appropriate regulations and guidelines
Provide a strong framework to preserve something we take seriously and care about deeply
Council being more cooperative in ensuring commercial opportunities 'facilitate' not block
Match regulation with purpose
Demographic renewal
gentrification with ? Change

27 June - Community

Stop Development! (Why follow everyone else to hell !!!)
Opportunity to keep and enhance the green wedge 'as is' (let other areas develop)

Consistent application of the rules with a balanced view on sustainability and responsible land management
Future land use and development consistent with the purposes of the green wedge zones
Do not subdivide to less than 20 acres (8 ha) as current planning
Include recreational trail linkages in any future subdivisions
Provide for horse riding, cycling and walking trails for Melbourne
Link trail from Melbourne to Cairns
Compact development - not space - wasting
Educate the community on land management

2 July - Landowners

Smaller blocks allow higher revenue to council
Improve our schedules to afford better protection for important green wedge values
Opportunity to make planning easier
Guaranteeing a rebuild if home/property lost by fire
Reduce cost and time to get permits
Introduce as of right provisions for existing titles
Planning amendments coming from GWMP to reduce complexity for uses
Allowing a build on vacant land, privately owned land

4 July – Equine community

For council to allocate reserves that would stay permanently the way they are
To have clear planning guidelines that are easy to understand and follow
Enforcing weed control regulations for all property owners
Protect the green wedge for all for ever
P.I.C promotion
Council to develop common sense when it comes to planning permits
Less regulation more incentive
Planning laws to protect grazing land as much as vegetated areas

9 July – CFA members

Clarify right of small block owners to build in green wedge
Need to protect environmental values
Commitment to consistent planning!
Green Wedge - not national park
Consistency

Other challenges

18 June – ‘Friends of’ groups

Understand and conserve cultural values of place + intergenerational; justice issues.
protection /views

18 June - Landowners

problem of excessive through traffic using roads as 'rat runs'

Dust

Accidents

Wildlife deaths

noise

rubbish

Some council employees have not behaved in a manner that is ethical or fair

27 June - Community

Not seeing the green wedge as cheap land for other 'urban' land uses

Not allowing large scale residential development

Managing more people and cars on local 'crazy' narrow roads which have limited capacity to move/carry people/cars (thinking of bushfire events) otherwise a fire trap (Short memories - Midnight Oil)

Residential parking

Traffic - better road systems, more car parking at the train stations

Ageing of individual landowners is not a reason to change rules to detriment of the green wedge

Clearing of forest to create protected zones around single new house in forest

Lack of continuity with, and capacity to learn from and understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing Nillumbik GWMP 2010-2025

2 July - Landowners

More footpaths needed. Granddaughter cannot walk home safely from school

Narrow roads for the amount of traffic

Some council requirements have insurance implications re fire, amount of trees / security, proximity to houses

4 July – Equine community

To get land - council to acquire

To have 'conversation' with Parks Vic re - trails. Let us horses/cyclists/walkers share fire tracks. They are the elephant in the room in regards to not displaying productive, ongoing inclusive attitude to many community groups.

Discussion at executive level (Parks Vic) about developing inclusive policies for shared trails

Unsuitable speed limits on narrow roads

CFA controlled burns in the area

DEWLP

Charge entry fee for Edendale farm

Develop plan to manage kangaroo numbers

9 July – CFA members

Developing infrastructure

Better bypass roads to take pressure off GW

Develop meaningful public transport across the whole shire
Use Council and agencies to engage and inform new residents
Improved communications infrastructure may allow for decentralised industry

Other opportunities

18 June – ‘Friends of’ groups

Maintain non urban style of site development and use and style.
Current Melbourne Water mass land sell-off could be managed to enhance rather than carve up the GW.

18 June - Landowners

Long term transparent planning provisions that do not punish land owners who want to live in sympathy with GW values
5,10,20,30 plans for change as Melb water has past forward

27 June- Community

Protect overall green wedge - no litter or development
Sustainable development for the next generations of residents
Shared community living spaces - not splitting blocks to build little houses/town houses
Education about the green wedge
Capacity to identify the successful priority actions from the existing Nillumbik GWMP 2010-2025

2 July - Landowners

Safe bike paths (use new barriers)
Plan towards an ageing population and its needs in a rural area
Plan roads and public transport
Road speeds where wildlife habitats are
People being able to build on existing titles means net community benefit
Safer properties for fire
Better CFA access to fight fires
Better water supplies to firefighters
Better maintained properties means less risk
Stop communities working against each other - work together, also be sympathetic to other people's ideas

4 July – Equine community

An equestrian centre with indoor school
Access for all abilities - RDA - riding access/opportunities for riders with disabilities
Work with landowners of grazing land/pasture properties to help improve or educate best management practices. This could be an opportunity to work with equestrian landcare groups and their educational workshops.
People that don't live or work in the shire having a say
Major link roads to minimise use of local through-roads.

Bushfire - fuel reduction in reserves and road sides
--

Make edendale farm self supporting

9 July – CFA members

Is the term 'Green Wedge' the right term for the coming decade and beyond?
--

Pressure on infrastructure from development

Fixed approach to land parcel size limiting growth and state govt interest
--

Most of area is NBN wireless (performance, cost, flexibility)

Aging infrastructure

Coffee and Chats

We held 26 Coffee and Chat sessions across the Shire, where we promoted the community engagement and wrote down stories and information that community members wanted to share with us.

Pat has completed the on-line survey & will come to the workshop on Thursday night in St Andrews. 1970 - Green Wedge was important back then and more important now. Crucial it is maintained.

Challenges - not really, except these:

- 31 years in St Andrews - Lived in Eltham previously - Overlays should be clear
- Real-estate - 2 x Landcare Groups. Feels very strongly about the Green Wedge its valid now and when it was conception. England has strong controls, people aren't allowed to build outside small community housing. Planning controls - Not weakened
- Enforced overlays - keep as is. Population increases climate change which is a challenge

What I Love:

- Bushland - Peaceful - Animals - mobs of Kangaroos - Lack of pollution
- Ease of public transport to get to friends/social events would make it even better

Actions and status of Green Wedge Management plan not clear

- Are they relevant now - Where are we at with them now - updates
- Is the Council reporting on the actions progress? if they do exist, they should be linked to the pages in the plan

Opportunities: - Conservation research & practice - Getting animals & plants back - 'its is possible' urban fringe

Personal Connects with fauna/flora: - Wine lip spider orchid discovered - 3 new plants - unto 80 fauna & flora. Funding should be provided now to protect them. - Getting 2 new extinct species this year - Paton Hill Bushland Reserve have plans to find a rare plant - no-one has done this since the 80's and already 3 found (found, identified & protected) - Powerful Owl, Brushtail Phascogale & Bandicoots - even though rare they frequent the Green Wedge these animals are different to common wild life - This community member will fill out a survey - they wanted to go to a workshop but they were either 'sold out' or inconvenient times. Some community members have expressed that they will most likely gate-crash the workshop to see if they can get in (in case others don't turn up)

- Moved here at 12 from country town. Wattle Glen perfect mix of rural & services. Love train & H/B Greensborough bus. Beautiful place to grow up. - I want to go travel and see the world but I can imagine wanting to settle down somewhere like here. when have a family. Harder for young people to live here less connected. All my friends have moved to inner not of Melb.

- You can do what you want on your land except cutting down trees. Not like Whittlesea when you get checked on all the time. - Like if not to change looks lovely trees animals. Don't want it to be like Donnybrook. - The changing speed zones 40, 60, 80 etc. used to be 100 all over. Really irritating. - Saturday bus is great but need all week. No ubers no taxi's. Hard to get staff as they can't get here unless the drive and have/own a car. - I drive customers home most nights. Need public transport here. \$3k a month for gas bottles. \$3k for electricity per month. Would be great to have mains gas. - Allow locals to come collect the wood the council is going to burn off so it doesn't get wasted. High heating costs.

- Love the trees, the scenery. - Keep it exactly as it is. - Nice to come up here & get away from the city for the day (Greensborough).

Issue / Concerns

- Traffic management opposed safety barriers put in roads here. St Andrews (unsightly. Stainless steel no reason. Vic Roads no concern for residents / councils views / opinions
- Maintenance seems to come to a halt Grass very high behind barriers. Spoken to council but seem to be taking extra time to get to them. Kangaroos are getting killed by cars. More

<p>accidents. Wattle Glen to here Left hard turn big barriers. No consultation on making the junction safe. - Lack of transportation services. No buses in KG. Want to use public transport. Same with Panton Hill. If you are going to preserve his beautiful land we need to consider the pollution that is generated from cars that people are forced to use due to lack of PT. - Focus of Wattle Glen / Hurstbridge raise & improve. Hope there is not a new development in Christmas Hills, don't seem to be listening to us.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What driven to see land, financial gain. Nest evs. Subdivision always conflict with the values of the Green wedge. A case where money can do the wrong thing i.e.. melb water. - Planning permits need to be looked at case by case. Would like to see all our roads with a safe cycling area. - Boost our appreciation of the GW through education. Not aware of many programs that engage with people about GW i.e.. after school programs etc. - GW management plan - signification boosting of education. A lot are going on with Melb Water etc. but not aware of council doing any. <p>What I love about GW - Animals, phascogals, feather tail glides bleach tail eagles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fresh Air - Natures, views, sunsets, quiet. Develop more community centres
<p>Cares - about natural environment & pieces. When 1st moved into area hear owls at night (nature)</p> <p>Values - "We are species & we share this space with others.". Privilege to share this space with nature / wildlife</p> <p>Conflicts - Issue of fire management protecting of fire which means more clearing conflicts with values of keeping as bush</p> <p>Love - Paddocks, bushland, nature</p> <p>Concern - Concerned about biodiversity & Nature People tend to be managing their own blocks by clearing it themselves for protection of fire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you encourage more people to live here you are going to get more traffic - question the goal of "keep going" not happy the councillors focussing on growth in the area - GW is one of the lungs in Melbourne - like to see more cycling/walking paths. We don't seem to use the area enough. Everyone gets in their cars needs careful planning. - Not enough safe walking paths - Trying to get away from car usage - Would like to see more programs for young people who live in GW. There seems to be a lot of kids hanging around the streets & more graffiti. - More programs for teenagers (after school programs). Free programs, don't make it price prohibited you need to reach the right kids.- Seeing wildlife Wallace the black wallaby is a real thrill! Anthichinus.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GW tourism more traffic, more people. We need a balance. How much more tourism do we need in "little Nillumbik".
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members of Round the Bend conservation co-op founded in 1971 - Suburb separated from Christmas Hill in 2000 - Passionate about Green wedge, wildlife habitat & corridor. Water Catchment - natural beauty. - Community - everyone knows each other, people meet regularly and drop in. Passionate about area needs to be looked after. - If it becomes another residential estate, wildlife will be driven away. - Rare Phase ogales - Concerned that people on panel won't have deep enough understanding of green wedge issues & appreciation of values - Current bushfire requirements defeat aims of conservation e.g. 1 / 70m clearing destroys habitat. How can we continue to conserve but still meet acceptable safety requirements. Cafe Benders - lots of Bend of Island locals e4d Saturday of Month
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warrandyte Community Association (WCA) knows Terry Tovey, Kim Cope, Jeremy - Good way to go preparing overlap - Will talk with others to get info & provide info - Will do survey online, has taken hard copy as well - Received panel invite, not sure if will apply has been during similar involvement for 40 years. - Talked about Pigeon Road issue taken to court supreme by Manningham - Briefing paper do we have this? Which will assist panel with providing guidance - Board of Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Co-operative (25 Harris Gully Rd Warrandyte) - Where is Part 1 of plan, is that the 30 page document on Participate Nillumbik? Is there a part 3? - Talked about Warrandyte on a

weekend where people come along for lunch, walk their dog, streets are busy with cars & people suspect visitors come from urban e.g.. Doncaster & come to the GW for the environmental setting.

- Love having visitors play in paddock & bush and going to the creek & swim as a child.
- Related to Apted's, Love fresh air - Traffic Building Up - No challenges, kangaroos break fences - 21 cows, 21 calves & a bull & 2 sheep. - No horses, dog & 4 chickens
- Take care of by herself Friend that helps with hay - Daughter moved & has another child. Children want to Arthurs creek primary. - Children come home and help keep busy help around farm with hay & fences. - Dad died on property, mum moved to Templestowe. I took over. Haven't had a holiday since a honeymoon. - Doesn't worry about that just loves water rivers run when it rains. - Goes to Chura in Panton Hill. - Check fences not pushed over by the rain this weekend. - in 70's built new home - old home white and Husband passed away 2003. SO manage land on own, grown up in same area. - Belongs to State-wide Landcare members for a very long time.

- 1977 Yarrambat - 2005 Hurstbridge. School councils involvement interest in native plants and management small mate's in nutfilce. Same position to things to growing indigenous plants for Melb Water. Friends of D C/bridge Group. - Balance for people and the environment. - More employment of resident in GW -Production of agriculture within Shire. E6: Buy Green Wedge - Sustainable market gardens on flood plains along creek reuse water to Market garden grow / sewage water would also provide employment to locals.
- Green cemetery - cardboard coffin recycled, trees plants over tom atm shortage of land for that purpose. - Kangaroo farming for meat = jobs - How do kids stay in areas - no more housing = multiple occupancy / one title - Rate reduction for GW employee maybe?
- Increase native vegetation private & public land - Have a rescue in boundaries between properties with native planning e.g.: 5HA = 10m reserve possible rate reduction for the portion of land - HB great opportunities for eco tourism. Very unique on railway line. Bushwalking easy to get to easy to do benefit economy as destination

- Leave it alone - Don't stuff it up - Don't let developers in - Corridors of development but need Green Wedge in between - Property is mainly bush but with few sheep & pigs
- Three children also live in Nillumbik - Has seen a lot of change over the years, more people

- Sustainable - Looking after the land - Bringing back the land - Working together as a group to set up Sustainable living - doing lots of homework to look at examples of how to set up Sustainable living in Nillumbik - Green Wedge stops this – Highlight - Looking after land
- Eco Village Lost in values of things - Natural Wellness - Not happening at the moment in Nillumbik - Sharing Resources - Building in ways that are sustainable - Eco Village Always struggle to get off the ground as planning restrictions - Planning laws need to change to do this - Holistic Living - thriving in every area - Nillumbik aware of Eco Village - Nightingale Village - Nightingale Project - Google

- Love the green wedge idea - Stop the developments - No Maccas - small developments
- Supporter of working with environments - Don't like seeing the developments going up - profit driven - Diamond Valley Eco Village - Create an area eco village sustainable looking after the land. Bring back the land that's been overused - Work with community
- Permaculture principles - Feel the GW doesn't afford us that ability to live together as a communal group. Idea of having a dwelling on 20 acre lot doesn't work for you.
- GW zoning currently there is no planning framework that supports the Eco Village project.
- Creating & model of 'Living' - sharing resources - Need shared facilities - Planning needs to change to accommodate special use zone so that on Eco Village established.

- Housing pressures in GW as well as others do - Affordable housing - sustainable
- Don't see Eco Villages. Don't get off the ground due to planning issues - Will require some sort of planning change i.e.. Special use zone - Education Land has been identified but planning restrictions - An example of this that works well is in Ireland Clough Jordan Eco Village (google this). Would like us to look at this as this is what Nillumbik is primed for.
- Aim is for Nillumbik to be aware of Eco Villages and to collides changes in planning to

accommodate these villages - Happy with current management of plan with minimal development. Would be great with an Eco Village. - We are very lucky we live.
- Create a model of living an eco village that supports elderly in their home.

- Love the Nature, Environmental Habitat - Wildlife / Recreation
Challenges - Internet, Mobile phones - Worried about pollution in river - run off
- Would like river to be healthier - Inevitability of the urban sprawl to be protected
- Don't have running water, gas - would be nice to have more services and infrastructure
- NBN would be nice - All needs careful planning around residential development & environmental protection of habitat & species Nature Corridor from Kinglake
- Concerned that it is not disturbed. - Important that native animals are free to move between national state parks & reserves currently existing. - If there is development should be medium or high density in the existing rather than rezoning in farming.

- Eltham is losing GW feel. Any larger, older houses being knocked down & rebuilt. Seems council losing control over decisions as VCAT seem to have final say. Need to have diverse range of accommodation. - Need to consider road network if developments one continuing. Consider ample parking in new developments. Reserves - Pleased it played out how it did and re-zoned but don't understand why we needed to go through that process
GW & Trees. If we start to lose what else there for people to come to Nillumbik for. People like the large blocks, trees hills. No other draw card i.e. shopping centres etc.
Challenges
- People wanting to retire may find it hard here due to lack of transport taxis etc., hills, mobile reception, emergency management. Although we want to maintain GW staying in the shire & retiring comes with its challenges.

- Substantial proportion of landholders should be consulted & included on panel. See state government planning practice note 31 - must be adhered to. - Simple summary of GWMP needed. People won't wade through details - "Involve key stakeholders and landowners in developing the plans to reflect a range of expertise & knowledge", should guide panel make-up - Shire should email significant things to the property owner, occupier - better communication format than current website e.g. newsletter emailed - Another 2 - 3 river crossings are needed, vital, on major roads - Got to have integrated population facilities from residential to infrastructure that caters for all ages to keep the community together e.g.. small community settlement near Kangaroo Ground with units for older residents - enables them to remain in their community. - If there's total destruction as a result of bushfires, we must be allowed to rebuild in same or similar spot immediately - not have to wait 2 or 5 years or never.

- Lived in Green Wedge all life - Important to maintain natural environment, wildlife corridors
- Concerned that a lot of development might include clearing - In Melbourne, developers nearly always get what they want. - Stressful because you feel that system doesn't protect environment - Need clear, long-term guidelines that are adhered to - Concern that it keeps getting nibbled away - Out here, people assumed certain areas wouldn't be developed but they have. Need clear guidelines - We're living in an area where change is inevitable, but we've managed to retain a 'liveable' city - bike paths, bushy, birds, people out enjoying bushland.- As you get further from Melbourne, there is less attention paid to retaining open bushland space. Makes Green Wedge even more important. - Population pressures in Plenty Valley - Doreen etc. increased traffic. When State Government designated it as a growth corridor, impact on traffic wasn't well considered. - With amount of "shoe-box" development, open space becomes an important physical & mental health issue.
- Lots of cyclists catch train to Hurstbridge & cycle out to Kinglake. One of Melbourne's main cycling routes. Contributes to local economy as they stop in at cafe's. - Some regulations related to Green Wedge & people's leisure to build very big houses & fire brigade stipulations / requirements - not compatible with maintaining trees, especially on blocks that are sub-size. - Hills all have large dwellings on top of them with no trees, loss of rural treed full. - There used to be discouragement in regulations against building on ridge lines, but that seems to have gone by the wayside. Most dangerous place in a bushfire is on top of a hill.

Houses are built there, requiring massive clearing, but houses shouldn't be on top of a hill to begin with - defies fire behaviour science. - Criteria requiring houses to be definable justify clearing but they were developed, they didn't take into account effects of topography which makes an enormous difference. - CSIRO studies after Ash Wednesday - shows that low vegetation is most likely to impact house if a fire, not tall trees. - Fire guidelines are used as an excuse to allow people to cut large number of trees down, when it is not necessarily the best option.

- Plan Flexible - Farm - Open Space - Easy Road Access - Blane Flora / Fauna
 - Affordable Living - Apply Simple Guidelines - Clear Simple - Live here because we love it
 - Adhere to Planning Practice Note 31 line 0015

- Years for a plan permit just for a shed! - Everyone has one
 - Whether true or not. What's in the plan sounds fine but devil is in the detail. Yes we love the bush, the space. What could happen. Council's response "if it won't happen" but it could. "It won't affect you", it could if home burns down these laws would affect us.
 - The image wanting to create is nice views for visitors. What! We live here, it has to be real for us. - If a tree falls down, need permission to cut it up? All these stupid rules create angst, disrespect for Council - Fireguard groups - very valuable. Obviously care for bush- Horses not environ dangerous. Worry that one day Council will say we can't have them they'll be banned. - Incremental creep of restrictions - No recognition for the land & property improvements that land owners make. - Tension between tree removal & bushfire safety
 - We want to be a green belt, but we want to live in it too. - Feels like urban people can do what they want to their place, but they can tell us that we have to have all these restrictions.
 - Feeling that planning wouldn't let you do anything. Assume you can't whenever you think of wanting to do something. - Too many rules. No Trust. - Not sure it's really tourism but having ppl visit area is good use cafes.

Raising a family in Montmorency was a compromise of lifestyle vs convenience decision. With children grown & left it was time for a change. The vision: 5 acres, bush, stream, mud brick. Travels around Australia always saw us back in Melbourne. Dandenong's and Yarra Valley appealed. Our searches led us to the Bend of Islands area. Once found it was impossible to consider other options. The zoning provided the ideal lifestyle for us with long-term security. We purchased our lot in 1992. 6.5 acres, bush block with environmental protection, the Yarra river as a boundary. The mud brick has been an ongoing challenge / activity. Our vision did not include community but it was a bonus to be part of a vibrant and active community with a common interest. The Bend of Islands conservation association was active in support of the area and the "residential conservation" zone that was drafted by the community to ensure the long term protection of the environmental values present... we embraced the area and were welcomed by the community. 26 years later we still enjoy the area and its residents. Our choice of living in the "Bend" was right for us. The area has been protected by the zoning and the community but it is disappointing to see the loss of environmental values across the shire. Small incremental losses of a tree here and a subdivision there. We need a strong and well defined GWMP to ensure the environmental and open space areas are protected for the long term future. Lock it in.

Approx 30 local people from the Bend of Islands attended. We ran it much as a Q & A. Introductory discussion focused on why the Green Wedge was important for the individuals and for the Bend of Islands area.

Noted on the white board:

- > Protection of environmental values of Nillumbik
- > Provision of habitat for native flora & Fauna
- > Protection of biodiversity of the area
- > Buffer to our special use zone
- > Contains urban sprawl - manages development & growth in the rural area.
- > Protects an area for people to develop a relationship with a quality environment for peace
- > Quality environment to benefit all of Melbourne
- > Provides / Manages to keep a balance between living (social) working economies)

recreation (tourism).

> GW is a management tool for the protection of the Yarra River - benefit for Melbourne & future generations.

> GW also supports and ensures quality of the Kinglake - Warrandyte wildlife corridor.

The attendees were made aware of how they can contribute & be involved in the GW review process. Same stories and questionnaire were filled in on the day - see attached. Other committed to doing so on-line.

In 199-something on a wet day we were inside our house in the Bend of Islands looking out through the end window when a female lyrebird scooted past. We grabbed our cameras and ran outside in time to see the lyrebird cross the road and disappear into the bushland on the otherside - too fast for our shutters.

Since then there have been a significant number of lyrebird sightings in the Bend of Islands thanks to a neighbour who has collated all reported sightings since 2000. We can see that they utilise the corridor between Kinglake National Park and Warrandyte State Park by coming along the escarpment near sugarloaf dam and then along Stevensons creek to us.

On Melbourne Cup Day 2007 we were looking out of another window when we saw a koala walking along our driveway on all fours. This time grabbing our cameras wasn't in vain because on seeing us the koala climbed just a couple of metres up a puny little tree and posed for photos. Since then we have seen a koala on the road at night not far from the Watson's creek bridge in 2015 and on our own property for days at a time in two different periods last year, high up in favourite eucalyptus with the occasional raspy below, advertising for a mate.

Another neighbour has charted koala records in the Nillumbik Green Wedge and the results seem to suggest that at least some animals were able to use the wildlife corridor to escape the devastation of the 2009 bushfires, and continue to use it.

It seems clear that lyrebirds, koalas, and probably many other species require a bushland corridor the size of the Nillumbik Green Wedge in order to sustain long-term biological diversity.

We are very lucky that our forefathers like Dick Hamer saw the need for the Nillumbik Green Wedge and set it up. I think it is incumbent on us all to protect and maintain it so that our grandchildren and their grandchildren can appreciate it's importance and hopefully get to see a lyrebird scooting past, or a koala using the corridor between Kinglake and Warrandyte to look for a mate.

I grew up in a south-eastern suburb of Melbourne in the 1950s and 60s. It was a typical cream brick house, small, two bedrooms, and then we added another for my grandmother. It was on a 1/4 acre block.

My dad grew lots of vegetables both winter and summer crops, and Mum loved roses, hydrangeas and camellias in the flower garden.

We went for Sunday drives in "the Hills" onto places such as Berwick or down to Mornington. Especially into the Dandenongs I realised we didn't have the same type of trees or plants in the gardens.

But it wasn't until the late 1980s when I was introduced to the Bend of Islands did I realise what some "blue-sky thinkers" had been doing a little way out of town. They'd been protecting our bushland, and alas of course our amazing critters from encroaching development.

I moved here in 1990 and set about a steep learning curve. Mid-sized black birds in a group of 10-12 - why they're white - winged choughs never heard of them before but fell in love with their antics!

And so it followed I saw kangaroos, wallabies, tons of different birds - still remember the first time of being over-flown by a group of Gang Gang Cockatoos and their "squeaky-doon" call - amazing!

All the plants looked like weeds to me but it was just another learning curve to find the "baddies" and the "goodies". Nothing is more exciting than finding a group of tiny nature

orchids doing their thing behind our house!

The challenges of not understanding my plumbing any more - tanks, pumps, ??, rain, dirt, possum poo - is still a challenge! Not to mention the fire-fighting equipment we have because that's the other huge challenge - fires! The final problem can be that friends from the suburbs find it too far, too hard, can't come at night because of the lack of street lighting / kangaroos etc.

Overall though we've become a part of an amazing community, enjoyed a simple but full life here in our small section of the Green Wedge.

I moved to the Bend of Islands in 2016 with a view to live in the bush, but still be within easy access to Melbourne when the opportunity to buy a house on 5 acres arose, I did some research on the area & visited many times, then decided it was right for me. The things I appreciated & which influenced my decision were:

- 1) The Bend of Islands is covered by a Su2 (special ute zoning) which places some restrictions on land use in aids to pressure the particularly unique environmental values of the area. I fully agreed with and support the principles underlying the zoning.
- 2) the Bend of Islands is a part of the wildlife corridor that extends from Kinglake in the north to the Yarra River & beyond.
- 3) In a broader context Bend of Islands is part of the Green Wedge of Melbourne which provides an important buffer to the urban sprawl.

Since moving here I have enjoyed every aspect of living here, but especially....

- 1) Living in an area where wildlife is abundant. It's easy to see why Kangaroo Ground got its name.
- 2) Close connection with local community in particular through membership of Christmas Hills Fire Brigade and local landcare.
- 3) Being able to walk cross-country to anywhere via various open spaces, trails, creeks & gullies, local tracks & roads.
- 4) The general landscape of the Kangaroo Ground, Christmas Hills, Watsons Creek, Warrandyte area which is, to me, the jewel in the Green Wedge crown. I grew up in Templestowe in the days when it had a similar landscape appearance (bushland mixed with open farming land). Over the decades this has been whittled away and now is fully wall to wall houses, kerbs and gutters.

I have learned that nothing can be taken for granted and that it requires effort & involvement in community to enable it to flourish, and that I am fortunate to find myself living in the Green Wedge - it is a place worth nurturing & protecting..

In 1994, after living in the Bend of Islands for 3 years, we became aware of a large nest in a Manna Gum. The tree is in a sleep gully about 100 meters below our house. The nest was difficult to see through the dense Burgan but we were eventually able to see a Wedgetail Eagle and one check on the nest. It was exciting to watch it progress from Fluffy white chick to a large fledgling and it's tentative flight. The nest was used for another four years and a total of eight chickens were raised. We were privileged to be able to look down on the young birds as they practiced their flying. We realised with a sense of disappointment in 1999 that the nest was no longer being used by the eagles. However, in 2008 we were amazed to see the nest being used by a pair of Peregrine Falcons. They had 3 chicks and for the next 4 years the falcons used the same nest and we watched some spectacular anial displays. Sadly the nest has now disintegrated and also the vegetation has changed radically in the last 30 years. We purchased the land about 20 years after the last major fire and it was covered by dense burgan, large Black and Silver Wattles and various types of Eucalypts. It has been interesting to see how it has evolved as the Burgan has matured to over 6 meters, the Acacias have died, some of the Red Shiny barks have suffered dieback and as they have fallen they have taken down other vegetation and there are now some very open areas. Unfortunately, new growth has been difficult to establish due to grazing pressure.

We moved here for the Intrinsic environmental values. As such we have initiated a legal covenant on our property with the trust for nature. The green wedge is a vital management tool to safeguard these environmental values into the future.

I first came to the green wedge by meeting my partner 15 years ago who has lived in the green wedge all her life. After living in Eltham for a couple of years we managed to purchase a property in the Bend of Islands. We loved the bush, the flora & fauna, the community of people who are interested in the environment. I joined the BICA community for 3 years and have been Landcare coordinator for about 9 years. The green wedge offers a place where children can grow up and stay in touch with nature. It has been a joy to live in this area and the management of the green wedge is important to the future of the wildlife corridor and the health of its residents.

After travelling Australia in 1980 we wanted to live in the natural environment after extensive research we chose the Bend of Islands for its natural environment with high biodiversity. The whole of the Green Wedge is enormously important and contains significant areas of high biodiversity. Living in the Green Wedge gives the opportunity to escape the suburbs. Both for the resident and for greater Melbourne.

In 1992 we found our dream block of land, beautiful bush with the Yarra river running along our boundary. What we weren't expecting was to also find a wonderful community of like-minded people all living here with the intention of protecting the flora & fauna. We were welcomed & soon after became heavily involved in the Bend of Islands conservation association & spent 16 years on the committee in various roles including sec & pres. Over the years we have fought many battles to protect this area and the broader Green Wedge each time with a sigh of relief. When all turned out well. Unfortunately these same threats keep popping up & the battles go on to save this unique area from ever encroaching urban sprawl.

We have met wonderful people in other areas of the Shire through the Landcare network who are as passionate about their part of the Green Wedge as us & we have become like one big family fighting the good fight for the greater community. Each morning we wake to the chatter of the fantastic birdcalls. This time of the year the bush is shrouded in mist rising from our brown Yarra. The different seasons bring more glorious discoveries of tiny orchids, rare flora species & the amazing array of animals that traverse the area. Wombat's digging burrows by the river & bringing their babies to visit, Wallabies, pruning every plant in sight. Possums, platypus & the rare Brush tail phascogate all add to the joy of living here. I have never lived anywhere that I knew more than a couple of neighbours, here not only do we know most of the community but I class them as my closest friends.

The green wedge needs to be protected & enhanced to make it safe for all who live here & those who visit. Future generations should be given the opportunity to enjoy this wonderful area as we are doing today.

Raising a family in Montmorency was a compromise of lifestyle vs convenience decision. With children grown and left, it was time for a change. The vision - 5 acres, bush, stream, mud brick. Travels around Australia, always saw us back in Melbourne. Dandenongs and Yarra Valley appealed. Our searches led us to the Bend of Islands area. Once found it was impossible to consider other options. The zoning provided the ideal lifestyle for us with long term security. We purchased out lot in 1992. 6.5 acres, bush block with environmental protection, the Yarra River as a boundary. The mud brick has been an ongoing challenge/activity. Our Vision did not include community but it was a bonus to be part of a vibrant and active community with a common interest. The Bend of Islands conservation association was active in support of the area and the "residential conservation" zone that was drafted by the community to ensure the long term protection of the environmental values present. We embraced the area and were welcomed by the community. 26 years later we still enjoy the area and its residents. Our choice of living in the "Bend" was right for us. The area has been protected by the zoning and the community, but it is disappointing to see the loss of environmental values across the shire. Small incremental losses of a tree there and a subdivision there. We need a strong and well defined green wedge management plan

to ensure the environmental and open space areas are protected for the long term future. "Lock it in"
I am attracted to the exquisite bush and trees. It is a refreshing change from the city - an escape. Hurstbridge Farmers Market is fantastic. The Green Wedge is like the ABC - don't touch it!. It is good for the economy and morale.
I like the big open spaces for country walks. It is nice to get away, peaceful and relaxing. Crossings in town (eg. Post Office Café) - better pedestrian signage around township - Not confident there's a gay community in the area - would like one.
In case I don't get a chance to see you before you go - Green Wedge Comments - Greater resources to eradicating invasive species eg. Indian minor birds, bridle creeper. - maintaining large blocks - ensure needs of environment and wildlife is focus of any changes - need to protect for the future. - Not implement changes that allow deforestation of profiteering from subdivision of blocks. Really important that the Green Wedge Management Plan is for the wedge - plants/animals, it's not for the humans that inhabit it. It's our responsibility to protect it, not allow weakening of rules so people can manipulate it. Thanks for the opportunity to provide input!
Little church in Plenty will get pulled down. - House and land in family since 1844 - creek – hand-made bricks, kitchen original, weather board. Family name Reid, wrote all newsletter articles in Arthurs Creek. Cattle on farm - 150 beef cattle farm production. Breed and sell when 18 mths old (when market good) sell at Yea Market. - Close to Yan Yean Road , surrounded by smaller blocks that have been subdivided. Property was in Whittlesea shire before boarder was changed in the 70s. Not far from property is Laurimar and Mernda. Save the farm and worried about the property being subdividable. Passionate about history of land/home, want to save it. Too far to commute to the city for work, want more work options locally. Social problems in Laurimer and Mernda, drugs and alcohol, crime. - Got Melbourne Water to plant 200 trees because of creek - will fund fencing to attract animals, better water quality. Started tree planting in 2003. Melbourne Water still fund weed control.
GWMP - making connections through the project, community getting to know each other. - Built home in Warrandyte - retired at 47. - Great dealings with council when building. - Quality of life better with trees - av quality better in GWMP, C02 take in, expel 02. - Has done many jobs in his life and lived in many places. - Council should do more coffee and chats, get out to the community, speak to people, not just at Council chambers, see council as a secret club held inside the walls in Greensborough This catch up is great for the community. - PARG meetings held in different areas not at Council eg. Panton Hill. - Want to change PARG to be advisory committee not reference group. - Has completed online survey and has been to the Engagement Design breifeing, stakeholder briefing and workshops. - Fully engaged. - Has panel invite and has registered. - North Warrandyte, ageing on large land, don't want to move but don't have anyone to hand/pass it on to. - 84 in Fireguard group. - Live in North Warrandyte for quality of life, encourage trees to grow turns carbon monoxide into oxygen.
Will never the area, love the wide open spaces. I am a horse rider and use and enjoy the trails - want to ensure it is always available for use. UGB - live on the border of subdivisions, watched over the years developers trying to make changes - didn't happen, still appreciate how beautiful the area is. - Have done online survey and her husband will complete survey. - Will come to the Equine Workshop tonight with Geraldine.
Christmas Hills - Melbourne Water - selling off land in 20 acre lots. - Want to rezone from 100 acre lots. - RC 24 want to change to RC73 - Cherry pick what they want to sell. Tenants on land not given right of sale - not given first right to purchase, some tenants been on the land 38 years. - 800 hectares - 1760 acres - 246 parks vic gifted, rest to be re-zoned and sold off. - Council needs to have a position to present to Melbourne Water. - Cr Jane in support - trying to feed back to staff. - Different zoning, agriculture and nature. - Once land too small, unable to run cattle or agriculture. - Open space alleviates fire risk. - Lots of deer, when lived across the road from antique store, 18 deer on the property, 300 kangaroos on

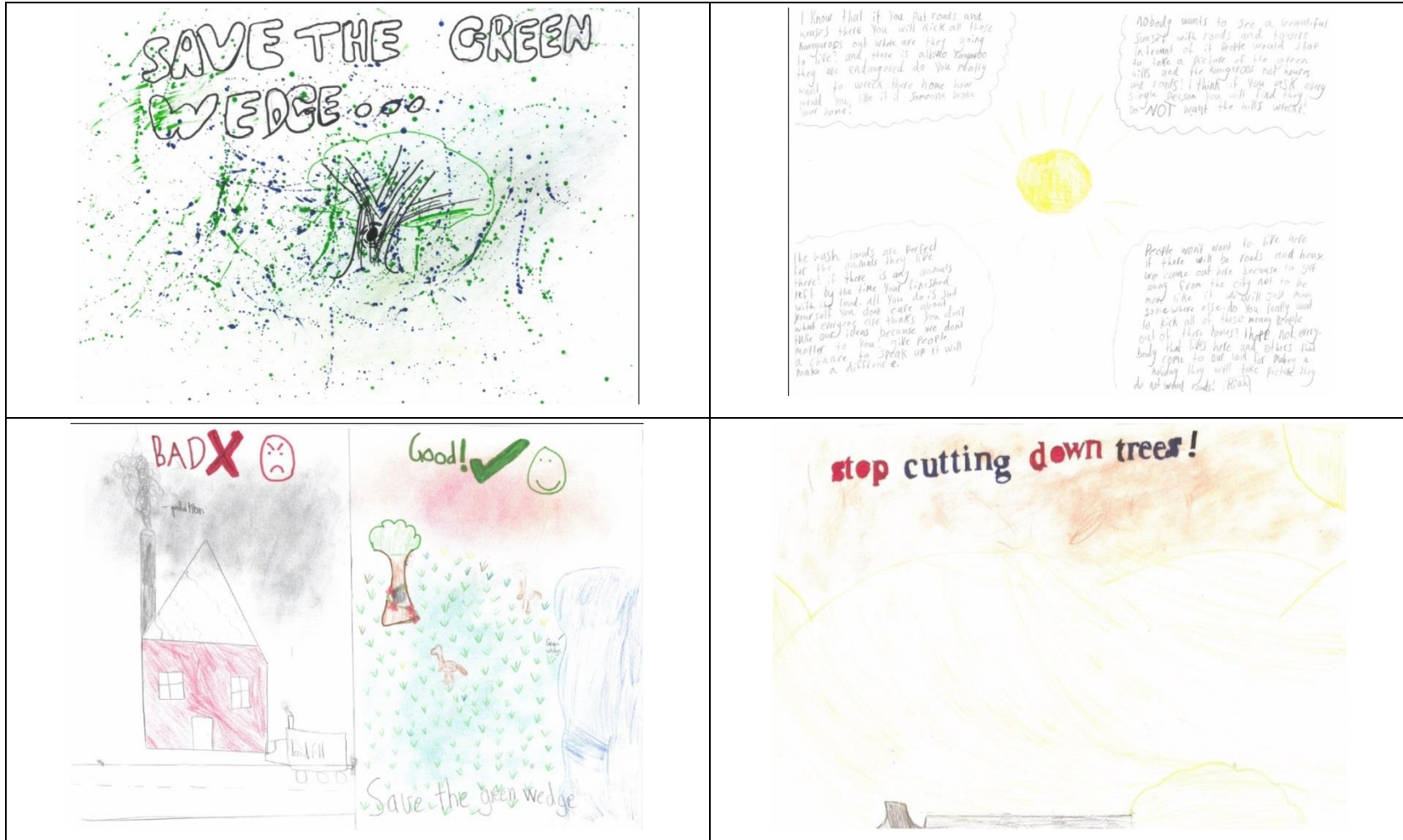
property in Christmas Hills. - For farmers Kangaroos are seen as a pest. - 3 kangaroos = 1 sheep, food wise. - Get caught in fences. - Need corridors for kangaroos so they can easily move through. Farming different now, quietly determined.

Member of Diamond Valley Bushwalking Club and U3A Bushwalking group (approx 220 + 50 members). - Walk all around Nillumbik, several times a week. - Eltham and Environs Bushwalking group also very active (60 - 70 members). - Biggest challenge is protecting the GW from people, more than the elements. - Group of landowners who want to "make a killing" - Nillumbik ratepayers association - don't represent people like me. - This group and group who campaigned against 2 overlays have big influence, and includes current deputy mayor. These groups are a threat to the GW. - Have heard rumours that Nillumbik GW is going to be abolished. But acknowledge that this is a second or third hand rumour. - There was a review a few years ago, why is there another one now? - Another threat - development and lack of parking, lots of new residents have no affinity with the GW and will be more development focussed. People are attracted here because it's cheap. They are interested in development and not protecting the GW. - It will eventually reach tipping point where majority of population won't care about preserving the GW. - Love the trees and rural atmosphere. In early days, there was more character. Walking groups walk in green wedge between Eltham and St Andrews. 3 - 4 years ago there were lots of great places for coffee, but there has been a change in ownership of some stores and quality has dropped. People take over iconic places - eg. general stores but they don't have any affinity with the area, it loses its character. Some have maintained character, support local crafts etc. - Nillumbik should be compensated for the costs involved in managing the GW as it benefits residents from many other areas of Melbourne. Participated in community campaign to raise this issue with State Govt, but council decided not to pursue this model of compensation, but to accept interface policy funding. We could put up separate case for GW compensation all the same. As I understand it, interface funding has decreased.

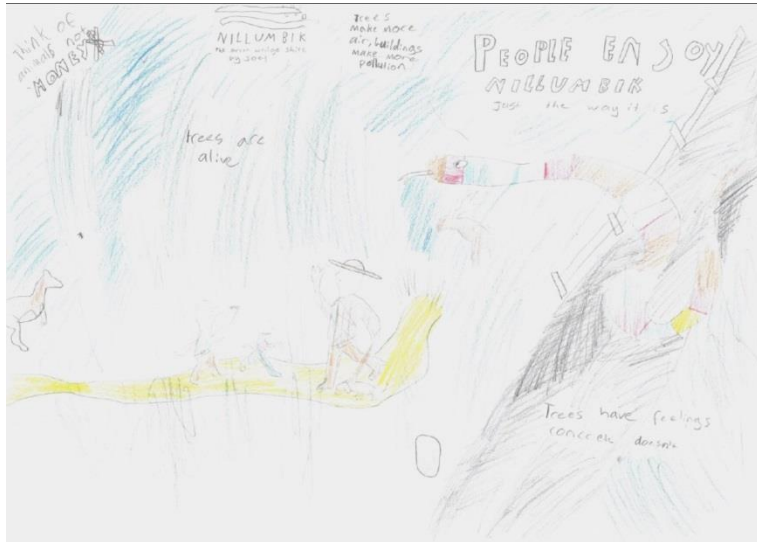
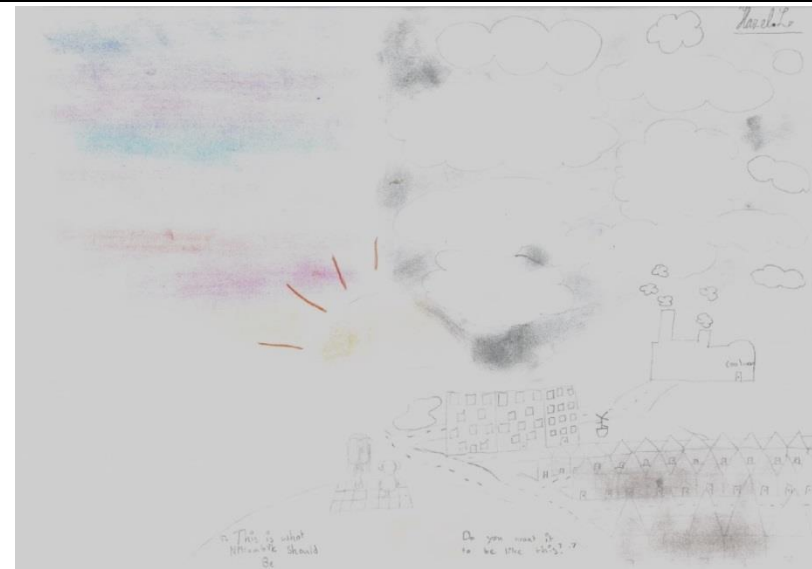
When Melb Metro Board of Works was abolished, responsibility for managing GW was transferred to Councils, but no funding was attached. - People who want to abolish the GW will use the cost as an argument. - Mistaken belief that more housing development improves financial situation, but what we need is commercial property - eg Greensborough. - People in D Creek feel under supported with lack of council spending on shopping centre. Would be good to move Council Offices to D Creek - more central to the shire. - Needs of walkers are not taken into account, Councillors aren't aware of needs of walkers. Concrete paths are more expensive than decomposed granite. Suitable for walkers and bike riders. Main users don't need concrete surface. Need to look at economics of D Creek - Hurstbridge Trail, but also flooding risk. - Does council still have a Trails Advisory Group? Walkers have been involved in the past. But walking clubs are invisible to the council. Need to develop a list of groups, possibly in Council website. - 90% of people in bushwalking clubs walk on trails, so it's important to bring together clubs to have our voices heard. - Health outcomes for Australians are going down. Diabetes is one of the main health issues. Walking, swimming or bike riding and strength training are what is needed. Older residents of Nillumbik need to do more of this type of exercise, walking - to contain costs associated with poor health outcomes. What better places to walk than in Nillumbik GW. This needs to be recognised and pushed. - Get council officer responsible for healthy ageing, exercise, trails to meet with representatives of walking groups. - Over 90% of members of Diamond Valley Bushwalking Club are over 60. Should be able to attract younger members, but it's hard when all members are older.

Drawings by primary school children

Several schools were approached to participate in the community engagement. They were provided with the youth survey and a scrapbook to collect drawings.



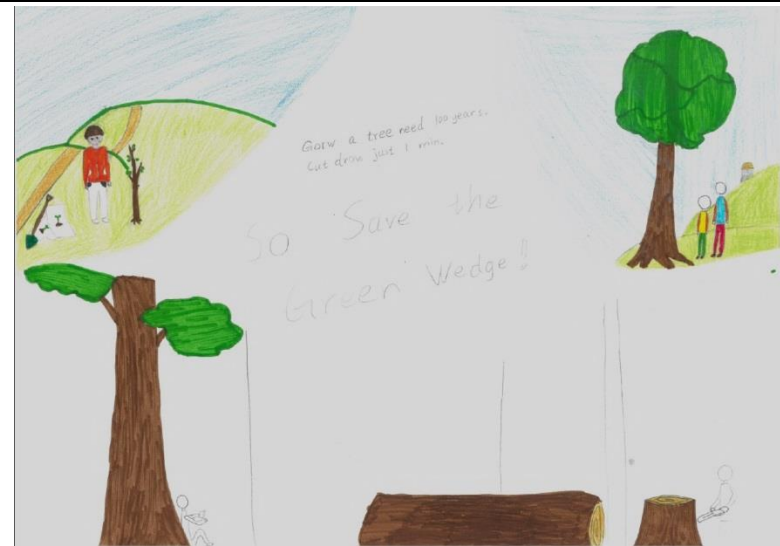
**STATE FOREST'S ARE GOOD
BUT NOT GOD AT ALL**



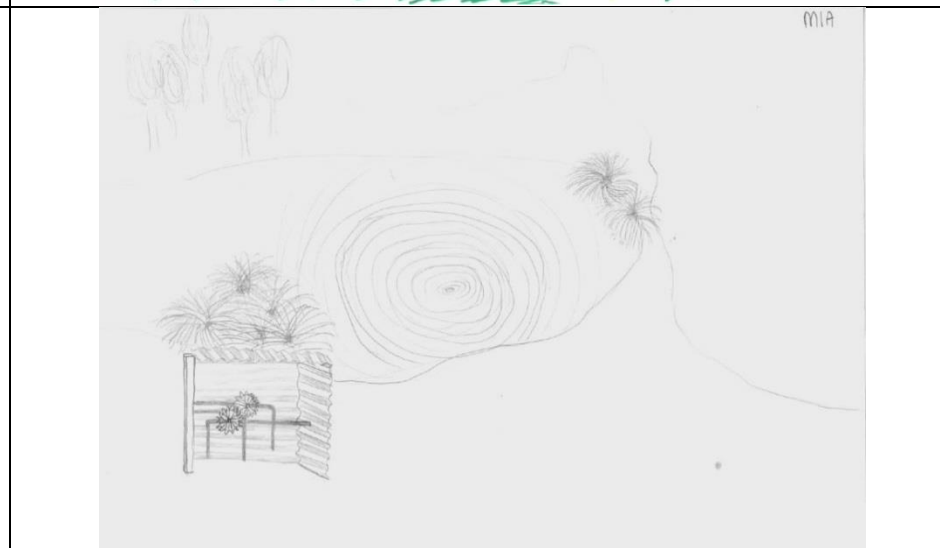
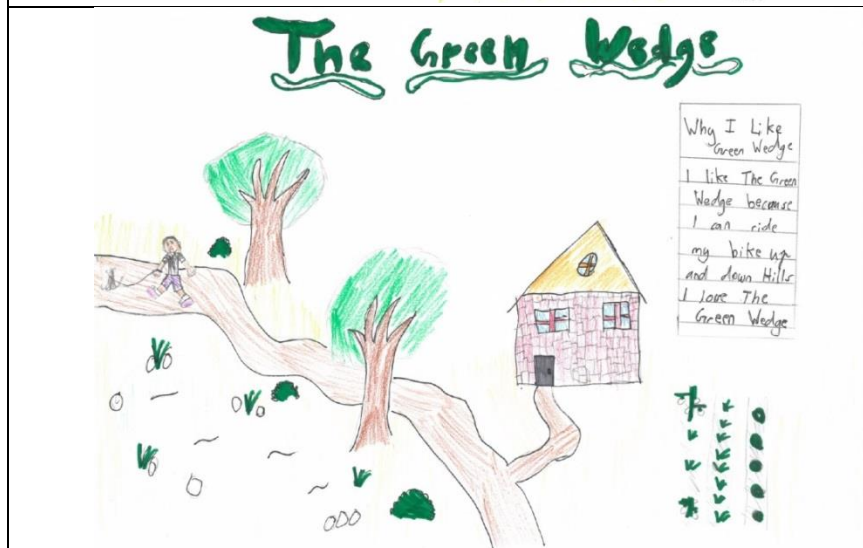
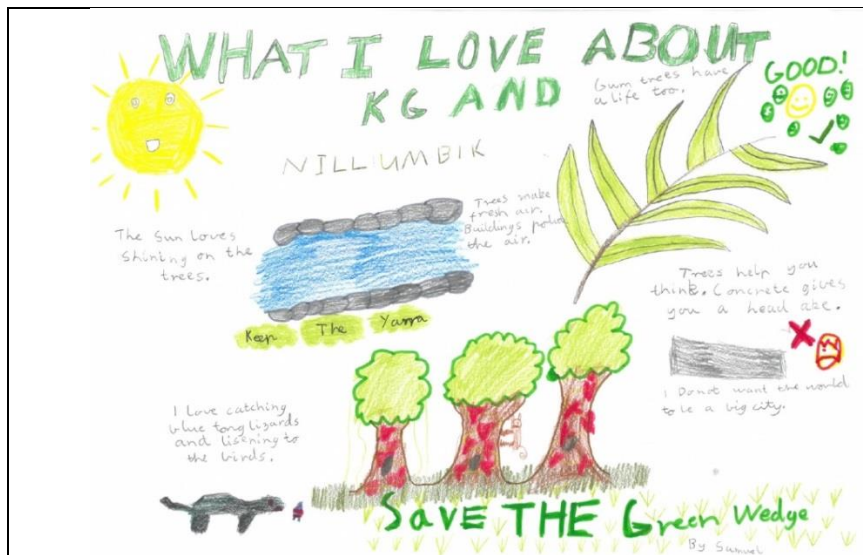


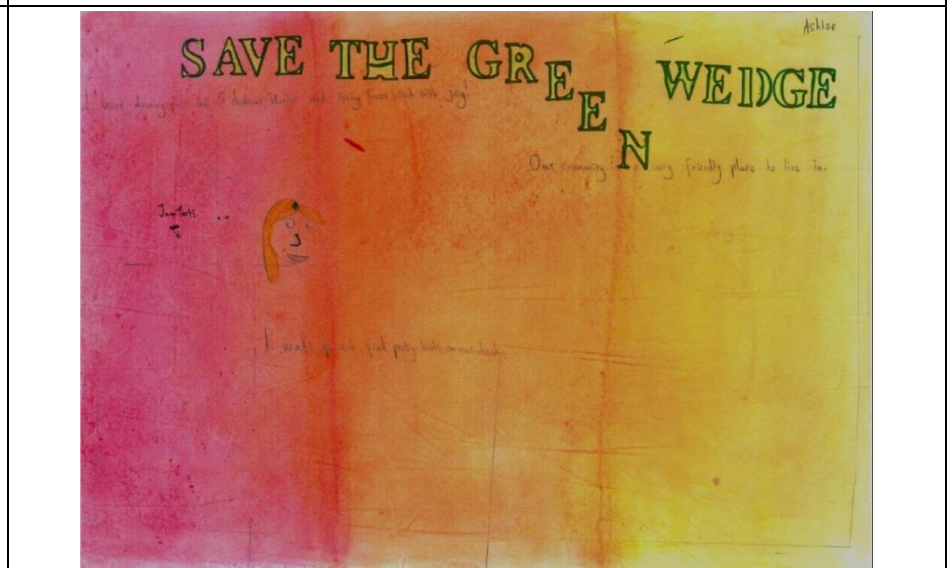
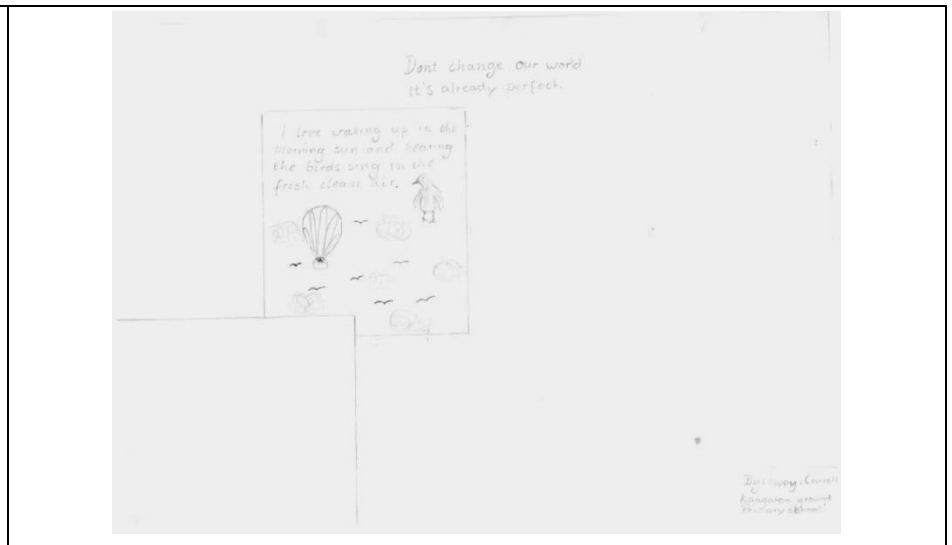
LEAVE THE ANIMALS ALONE !!

Dakota



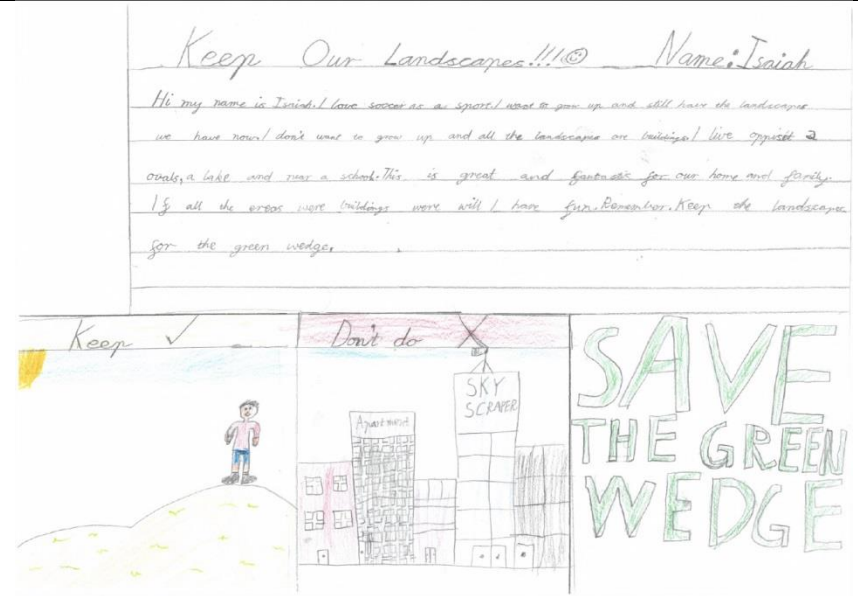
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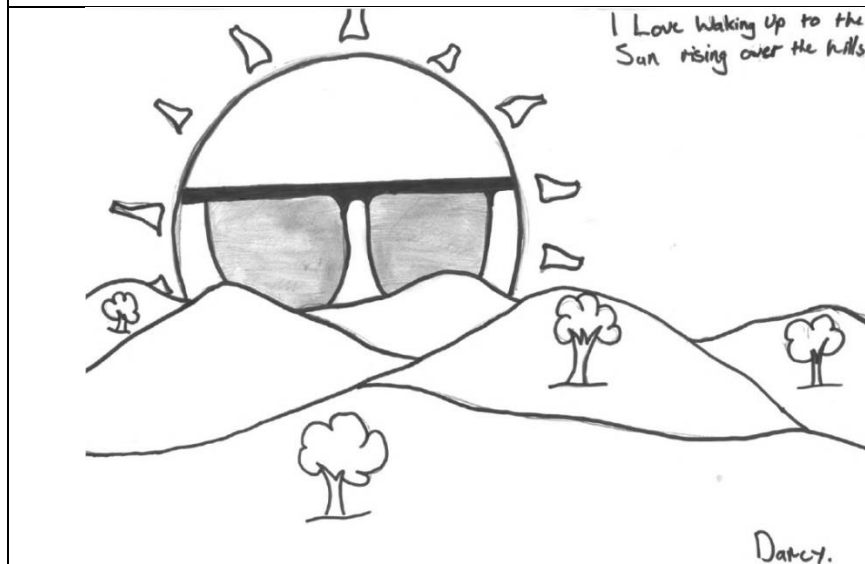




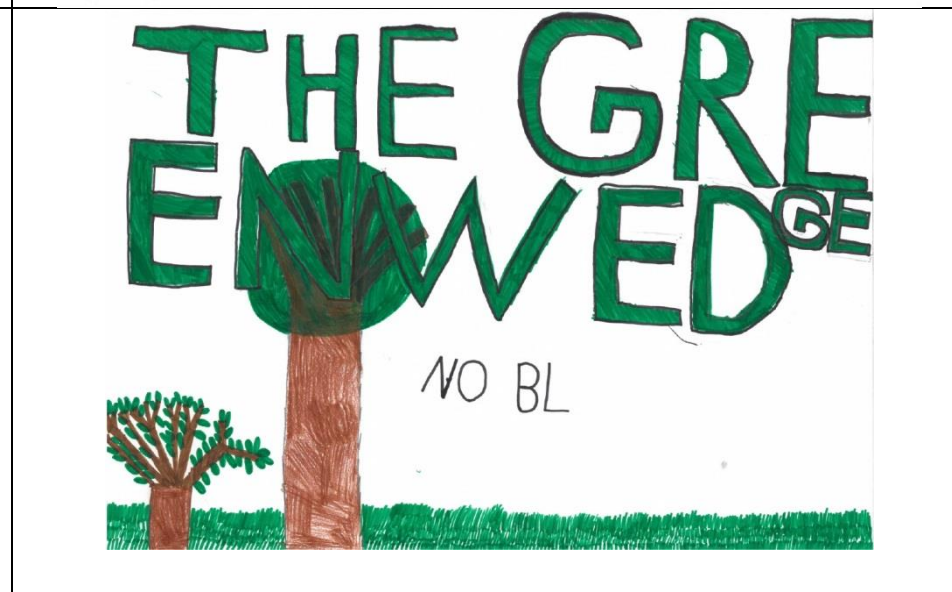
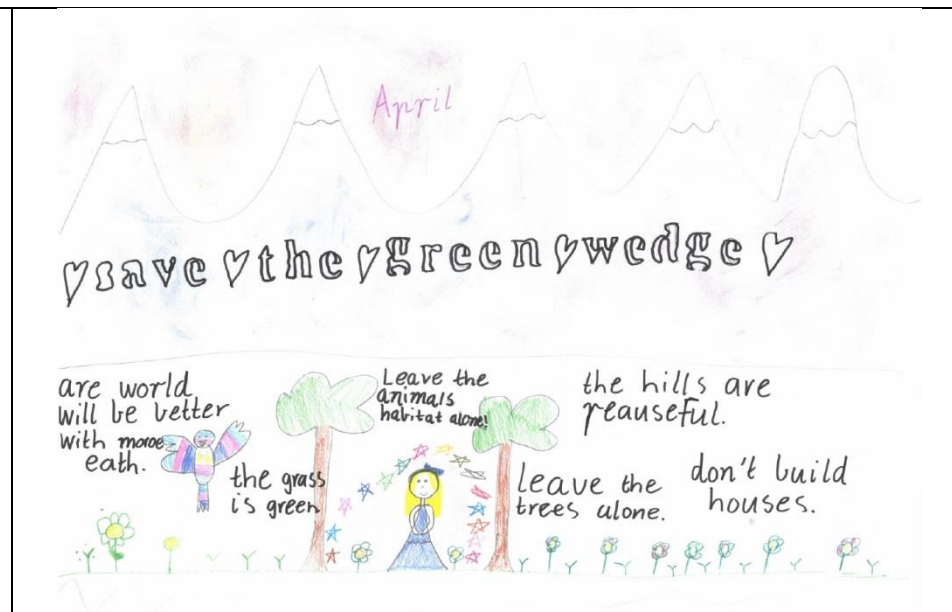


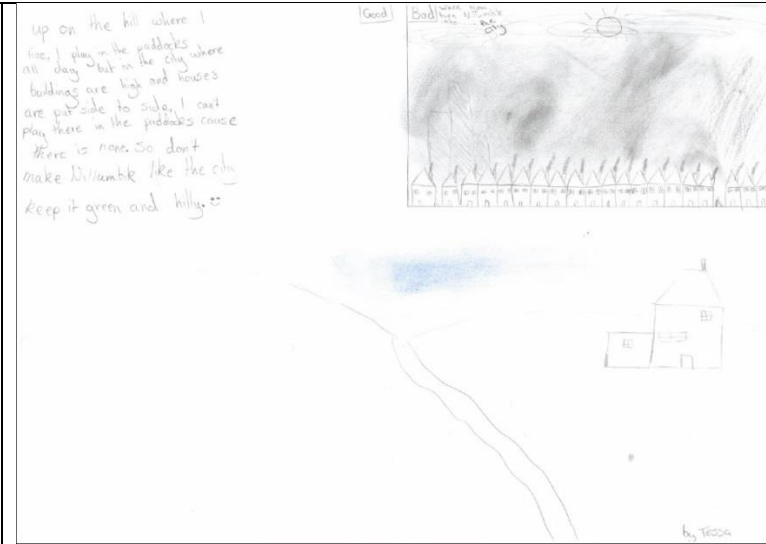
SAVE THE GREEN WEDGE









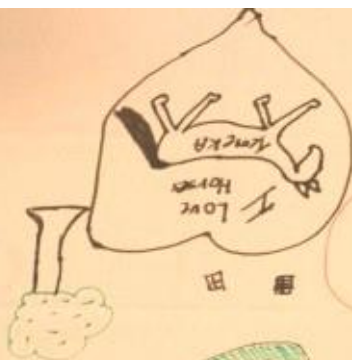


THE GREEN

WEDG



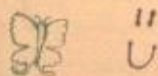
Do not cut down the trees



I Hate Mean People

Wildlife

I Love Animals



I Love Wildlife!

The Schools



✓ MY FRIEND
✗ PUBLIC



I Love



SPACE



Additional responses received

Set of briefing papers prepared by a community member

Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan Review 2017-18

Introduction

This is a series of briefing papers to assist in the development of the rural Nillumbik green wedge management plan and provide for a sustainable rural Nillumbik green wedge. It includes:

Paper 1 – Property Prices – paper 1 shows that when Nillumbik is compared to surrounding areas with green wedges, owners of rural Nillumbik green wedge properties experience financial disadvantage when compared to owners of property in urban Nillumbik, greater metropolitan Melbourne and many other green wedge areas. This financial disadvantage has the effect of creating social disadvantage in rural Nillumbik green wedge communities incrementally and over time.

Paper 2 – Economic Sustainability – paper 2 shows that properties in the rural Nillumbik green wedge do not provide or support economic sustainability for businesses and families. This limits the ability of rural Nillumbik green wedge landowners to service debt and safeguard borrowing. This also limits choice when planning for the long term. This is not consistent with landowner experiences in urban Nillumbik, other green wedge areas, or the greater metropolitan Melbourne and means that residents of the rural Nillumbik green wedge are comparatively disadvantaged.

Paper 3 –Economic Sustainability – Regulation - Zoning and Environmental Significance Overlays – paper 3 shows the actual state of land use across the rural Nillumbik green wedge, and the regulated use are misaligned, presents a risk to rural landowners, and the benefit provided by this misalignment is not known. The paper asks if there is a way other than regulation to achieve (unstated) policy objectives.

Paper 4 Health and Wellbeing – Paper 4 shows that Nillumbik urban communities experience advantage, and rural Nillumbik green wedge communities experience comparative disadvantage and inequity in health, mental health and wellbeing outcomes including high levels of stress, distress and vulnerability.

Paper 5 Bushfire Risk – Paper 5 shows that recent Royal Commission and bushfire inquiries in Victoria make recommendations to prioritise the protection of life, property and biodiversity, that are not actioned and implemented resulting in the protection of human life, assets and biodiversity not being appropriately provided for in the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

Paper 6 Climate Change – Paper 6 shows climate change planning predicts the greatest risk to the rural Nillumbik green wedge is the increase frequency and severity of bushfire and that planning to prevent bushfire from occurring, responding to it when it does occur, and recovery when it has occurred needs to be a priority to provide for the sustainability of the rural Nillumbik green wedge as consequences of failing to reduce risk includes premature death and worse case bushfire event outcomes.

Paper 7 Social Connectedness and Community Resilience – Paper 7 discusses the characteristics of connected and resilient communities, some of the challenges landowners in the rural Nillumbik green wedge experience in connecting and developing resilience, and how important connected and resilient communities are to the sustainability of the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

Paper 8 Victorian Planning Provisions - Bushfire Management Overlay and Existing Use – Paper 8 shows the limitations of the existing bushfire management and existing use provisions, and the risk exposure that exists to landowners across the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

Paper 9 – Then and Now. Paper 9 compares Australia, Victoria and the rural Nillumbik green wedge in 2018, and in the very early 1970's when the green wedge concept was bought here from England as a series of social, policy, economy and practice highlights. Current and future context, policy and practice are critical to planning for a sustainable rural Nillumbik green wedge. This includes the need to articulate, define, quantify and prioritise specificity of significant sites and features in the rural Nillumbik green wedge, so as to inform the management of the area to protect and prioritise these sites into the future.

The panel and council is encouraged to address the issues raised in these papers in deliberating and making recommendations that inform the Rural Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan so as to provide for the sustainability of the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan Review 2017-18

Social and Economic Sustainability

Paper 1 - Property prices in the Nillumbik green wedge and why it matters

In Victoria, property price and sales data is collected and reported by the Victorian Valuer General (<https://www.propertyandlandtitles.vic.gov.au/property-information/property-prices>). The most recent report was prepared mid 2017 and covers the 2016 full year of sales.

The report shows that when Local Government Areas surrounding Nillumbik (with green wedges) are compared with Nillumbik (and the rural Nillumbik green wedge), over the period 2010 to 2016 at point of sale **owners of rural Nillumbik green wedge properties experience significant financial disadvantage** when compared to owners of property in:

- Urban Nillumbik
- Greater metropolitan Melbourne and
- Many other green wedge Local Government Areas

This financial disadvantage has the effect of creating social disadvantage in rural Nillumbik green wedge communities incrementally and over time. This outcome may be inconsistent with the **Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006** (Part 2 (7) (7.2)(7.3) right subject under law, (8) right to equity and equality under law and (20) right not to be deprived of property.

In considering the Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan review, council, and the panel need to ensure plan recommendations and actions demonstrably reduce the financial disadvantage currently experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge landowners to promote the social and economic sustainability of the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

Report findings

- Nillumbik does not have a diversity of property like other Local Government Areas;
- Nillumbik property is more scarce and turns over less frequently than in other Local Government Areas;
- Rural primary production and rural residential property turns over less frequently than urban residential purpose property across all Local Government Areas;
- Manningham has the highest median and mean price per area across all property types including detached house, residential rural lifestyle and vacant rural lifestyle, for the periods 2010 and 2016
- **Mixed Farm and Grazing properties** over the period 2010 to 2016, property sales across metropolitan Melbourne have increased 14.07% over this period. In Nillumbik these same properties have experienced a sales increase of 5.58% over this period.
- **residential rural properties**, over the period 2010 to 2016 Nillumbik has experienced the lowest rate of increase in property sales of all Local Government Areas compared, with sales increase of 55.4%
- **vacant rural residential lifestyle** lots, over the period 2010 to 2016, property sales across metropolitan Melbourne have experienced growth of 110.39%. In Nillumbik these same properties have experienced a sales loss of (4.47%), negative growth.
- Over this same time period in Nillumbik, residential (non-rural) property sales have experienced positive growth **of houses 27.3%, apartments 21.9% and vacant lots 64.3%**

	Median Price			
	2010	2016	Change	Change
Houses				
Metro Melbourne	495000	635000	140000	28.28
Nillumbik	575000	731000	156000	27.13
Mornington Peninsula	480000	625000	145000	30.21
Manningham	750000	1180000	430000	57.33
Whittlesea	405000	485000	80000	19.75
Yarra Ranges	416000	560000	144000	34.62
Units/Apartments				
Metro Melbourne	449000	511069	62069	13.82
Nillumbik	440000	535000	95000	21.59
Mornington Peninsula	355000	443250	88250	24.86
Manningham	530000	640750	110750	20.90
Whittlesea	325000	352000	27000	8.31
Yarra Ranges	340500	460000	119500	35.10
Vacant lots				
Metro Melbourne	190000	227000	37000	19.47
Nillumbik	241750	398000	156250	64.63
Mornington Peninsula	255000	347500	92500	36.27
Manningham	432500	735000	302500	69.94
Whittlesea	194500	212000	17500	9.00
Yarra Ranges	175000	252500	77500	44.29

Figure 1 Comparative sales prices houses, units and land 2010 to 2016
www.propertyandlandtitles.vic.gov.au

	2016	2016		2010	Change 2010-2016
	Mean Sales Price	Median Sales Price	Median Price Per Unit Area	Median Price Per Unit Area	Median Price Per Unit
Mixed Farm & Grazing Unspecified					
Metro Melbourne	1906107	1080000	4.62	4.05	14.07
Nillumbik	833250	842500	2.08	1.97	5.58
Mornington Peninsula	2853362	2100000	7.66	10.59	-27.67
Manningham	0	0	0	0	0.00
Whittlesea	1320000	1320000	0.31	0.31	0.00
Yarra Ranges	1154354	900000	2.03	2.55	-20.39
Residential/Rural Lifestyle					
Metro Melbourne	1180706	960000	129.5	128	1.17
Nillumbik	1157859	1065293	56.27	36.2	55.44
Mornington Peninsula	1505855	1248000	98.5	59.15	66.53
Manningham	1800420	1650000	346.78	197.48	75.60
Whittlesea	834065	792500	32.15	18.58	73.04
Yarra Ranges	911249	810250	84.42	30.98	172.50
Vacant Residential Rural Lifestyle					
Metro Melbourne	740772	520000	42.12	20.02	110.39
Nillumbik	648145	620000	11.85	12.43	-4.67
Mornington Peninsula	940592	712500	64.06	34.72	84.50
Manningham	1223888	1172000	187.77	211.04	-11.03
Whittlesea	389296	245000	17.92	12.11	47.98
Yarra Ranges	349027	290000	13.11	7.68	70.70

Figure 2 Comparative sales prices rural 2010 to 2016 www.propertyandlandtitles.vic.gov.au

Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan Review 2017-18

Social and Economic Sustainability

Paper 2 - Economic sustainability of the Nillumbik green wedge

Paper 1 showed rural Nillumbik green wedge property sales continue to perform poorly compared to other green wedge area property sales, and compared to broader metropolitan Melbourne, causing financial disadvantage and inequity to rural Nillumbik green wedge communities.

This paper considers business and family economic sustainability issues resulting from financial disadvantage imposed on communities in the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

Economic sustainability for business means using company assets efficiently and optimally to enable the business to function profitably over time. For families, economic sustainability means using family time, assets, resources efficiently and optimally so that family goals are able to be met over time.

Both business and families have similar needs when considering economic stability, and asset performance, and these needs include:

- Asset return that is predictable and (at a minimum) mirrors the norm
- An ability to service debt and safeguard borrowings
- An ability to consider and plan for the long term.

In terms of asset performance, properties in the rural Nillumbik green wedge do not provide or support economic sustainability for businesses and families in the rural Nillumbik green wedge. Asset return on rural Nillumbik green wedge property is significantly lower than neighbouring areas (see Paper 1, and figure 1 below). This limits the ability of rural Nillumbik green wedge landowners to service debt, and safeguard borrowings. This also limits choice when planning for the long term. This is not consistent with landowners in urban parts of Nillumbik, other green wedge areas, or across greater metropolitan Melbourne, and means that residents of the rural Nillumbik green wedge experience financial disadvantage, higher financial risk and limited choice in planning for their long term future when compared to others in other green wedge areas, and across metropolitan Melbourne.

In considering the Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan review, council, and the panel must ensure plan recommendations and actions demonstrably reduce the financial disadvantage and high financial risk and limited choice currently experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge landowners to promote the social and economic sustainability of the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

There are an estimated 4,328 properties¹ (and families) in the rural Nillumbik green wedge. Almost 90% are privately owned, 45.2% are mortgaged (2016), and the percentage of mortgaged properties is on the increase (from 42.2% in 2011). This differs from the broader Nillumbik property market, where mortgages on properties are in decline.

The number of rural Nillumbik green wedge properties that are used as security for business lending is not known. The debt that rural Nillumbik green wedge properties are held in security for is also not known. This information would be helpful to inform the Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan review.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011 and 2016, Profile id

Of the estimated 12,356 residents of the rural Nillumbik green wedge:

- An estimated 6,327 (51%) rural Nillumbik green wedge residents are employed:
 - most common industries including: construction, health care and social assistance, education and training, retail trade, professional/scientific and technical services, and manufacturing
 - most common occupations include professionals, managers, technicians and trades workers, and clerical and administrative workers
- An estimated 1,913 people, 831 properties are owned/occupied by people aged 65 years plus. Current and growing levels of financial disadvantage are limiting the future accommodation choices available to these people when compared to people living elsewhere. This has economic and financial implications for the rural Nillumbik green wedge community today and into the future, and social, safety and amenity implications for the rural Nillumbik green wedge community now and into the future. Disadvantage can be expected to escalate in the ageing population over time as Commonwealth aged care reform continues to roll out (increasing the age of eligibility for the aged pension, and increasing assets included in means testing).

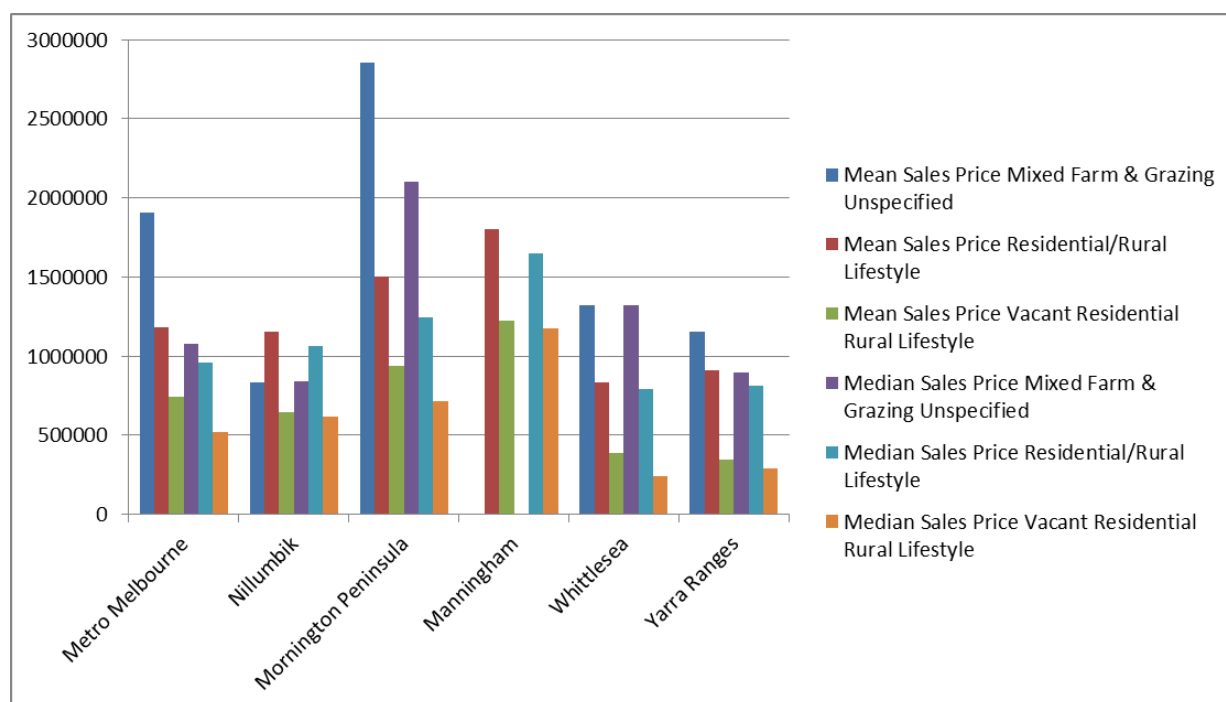


Figure 3 comparative sale outcomes in green wedge areas by sales type 2016 (See Paper 1)

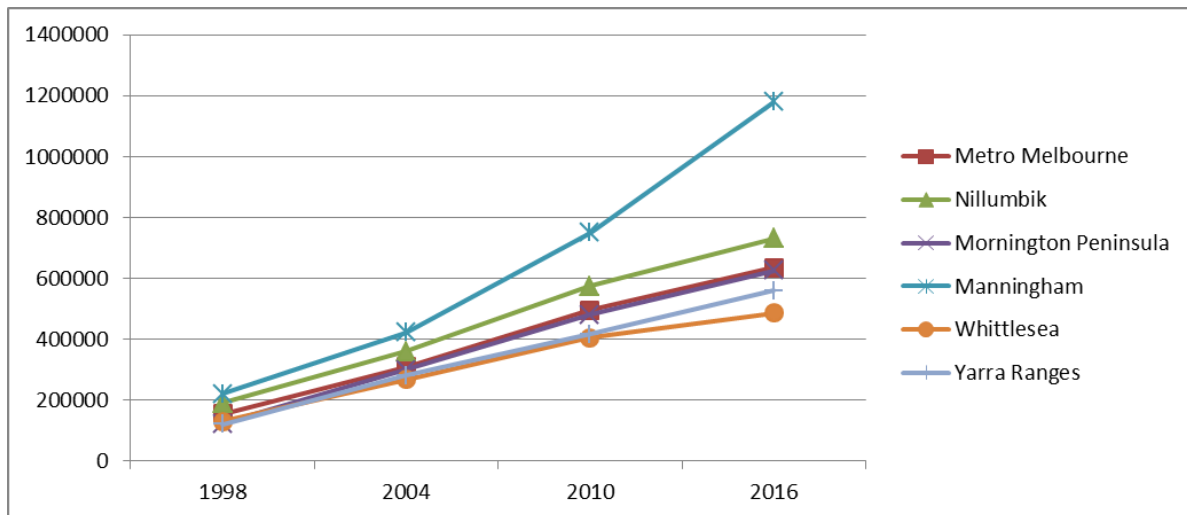


Figure 4 Predictability of return on sale of housing in urban areas 1998-2016 (see Paper 1)

Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan Review 2017-18

Social and Economic Sustainability

Paper 3 – Economic sustainability of the Nillumbik green wedge zones & schedules

Paper 1 showed rural Nillumbik green wedge property sales continue to perform poorly compared to other green wedge area property sales, and compared to broader metropolitan Melbourne area property sales, resulting in financial disadvantage to rural Nillumbik green wedge landowners.

Paper 2 discusses economic consequences to families and businesses in the rural Nillumbik green wedge where poor sales performance is linked with increasing debt and an ageing population which results in financial disadvantage, higher financial risk, and limited choice for rural Nillumbik green wedge landowners.

This paper considers the regulatory burden imposed on rural Nillumbik green wedge landowners, in particular:

- Zoning (in particular RCZ) and
- Environmental Significance Overlays (in particular ESO1)

In considering the management of the rural Nillumbik green wedge, the Panel, and Council must consider that land use planning, rules and regulation in the rural Nillumbik green wedge in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme is not all appropriate or effective. In some cases it is not fit for purpose and this presents a risk to landowners, assets and resources.

Most of the rural Nillumbik green wedge private land is zoned under Clause 35 of the **Nillumbik Planning Scheme**, mostly as **Rural Conservation Zone**, and 5 schedules. Zoning across the rural Nillumbik green wedge is shown below:

PP	30 Zones	35	Rural Zones (PDF 8.8 KB)	
VPP	30 Zones	35.04	Green Wedge Zone (GWZ) (PDF 48.9 KB)	40 hectares
LPP	30 Zones	35.04	Schedule to the Green Wedge Zone (PDF 12.4 KB)	
VPP	30 Zones	35.06	Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) (PDF 40.8 KB)	40 hectares
LPP	30 Zones	35.06	Schedule 1 to the Rural Conservation Zone (PDF 12.3 KB)	1 hectare
LPP	30 Zones	35.06	Schedule 2 to the Rural Conservation Zone (PDF 12.4 KB)	2 hectares
LPP	30 Zones	35.06	Schedule 3 to the Rural Conservation Zone (PDF 12.3 KB)	8 hectares
LPP	30 Zones	35.06	Schedule 4 to the Rural Conservation Zone (PDF 12.6 KB)	40 hectares except 168 skyline road - 25 hectares
LPP	30 Zones	35.06	Schedule 5 to the Rural Conservation Zone (PDF 12.3 KB)	40 hectares
LPP	31 Zones	37.01	Schedule 2 to the Special Use Zone	40 hectares

Approximately 75% of all properties in the rural Nillumbik green wedge do not comply with and are smaller than the zone imposed on them. This is not unusual in rural Victoria, and presents a particular risk to rural landowners (refer Paper 8). Zones impose restrictions on land use, limitations on occupancy and use, and outline a minimum lot size for sub-division purposes.

More than 50% of the rural Nillumbik green wedge is covered by an **Environmental Significance Overlay** ESO, and for the most prevalent ESO is ESO1, under Clause 42 of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme. ESO1 establishes activities that require landowners to apply for a permit to do something. The sole source of reference is *Sites of Faunal and Habitat Significance (North East Regional Organisation of Councils – NEROC) – Beardsell 1997 – the data for which is now 25 years old*. Land planning regulation in Nillumbik needs to

consider current data and evidence, what success looks like, how meeting objectives will be measured, and the social, economic and environmental impact of regulation. ESO1 does not consider any of these things. What it does do is impose a burdensome time and cost penalty on rural landowners needing to apply for a permit. Best practice regulation requires government and agencies to consider if regulatory action is required at all or can policy objectives be achieved by alternate measures that involve lower costs for business and the community. It is worth considering if the policy objectives of ESO1 may be stated, measures articulated, and performance reported against, and consider if these may be met in some way other than regulation.

A **173 agreement** is a legally binding agreement a landowner enters into, usually with Council, usually as part of a permit application process. It results in a covenant being placed over a part of a title of a property. It may be amended by shared agreement. It is not voluntary. It does not exclude landowners from the need to fulfil bushfire preparedness, weed and pest management obligations. In 2014 there were approximately 4,556 ha of land are covered by a Section 173 across Nillumbik.

A **Trust for Nature** agreement is a legal covenant placed over the title of a property to protect native flora and fauna in perpetuity. It is voluntary. It does not exclude landowners from the need to fulfil bushfire preparedness, weed and pest management obligations. In 2014 there were 50 TfN conservation covenants in Nillumbik covering 431.67 ha. Is this a more appropriate conservation mechanism than regulation?

Applying for a permit in the rural Nillumbik green wedge is time consuming and expensive. A fast track tree pruning permit in an urban area starts at \$440 and a few weeks. In the rural Nillumbik green wedge the same permit process will attract a multiple factor penalty in time and cost, which considering seasonal maintenance and bushfire preparedness, presents a safety risk to landowners and assets, in particular those where properties are covered by ESO1..

Regulation developed in 2018 needs to demonstrate that it is:

1. fit for purpose
2. multifactorial, holistic, considers social, economic and environmental circumstances and specific to local conditions and circumstances;
3. developed with the people who it will impact on;
4. On public land it supports and is supported by and accessible to communities;
5. On private land it supports and is supported by landowners; and
6. Demonstrating that over time it achieves a desired shared outcome.

The Australian government supports consideration of methods other than regulation to meet policy objectives. To understand what appropriate responses to implement policy objectives are, it needs to be clear what policy objectives are, what options are available, and which options are best likely to meet policy objectives.

References:

Nillumbik Planning Scheme – Clause 30 Zones and Clause 36 Rural Conservation Zone
Nillumbik Planning Scheme – Clause 42 Environmental Significance Overlay – ESO 1
Nillumbik Sites of Significance Review, Abzeco 2014

In 2014 Nillumbik Council commissioned consulting firm Abzeco to produce a report to support the imposition of altered land use planning overlays across most of rural Nillumbik. The report was predominantly a desk top review and was scientifically, technically, socially, economically and environmentally flawed. One of the resultant proposed planning amendments council prepared arising from the report was rejected by the Minister for Planning as it represented an inadequate application of the provisions with respect to purpose, geographic application, form and content, the other was denied by VCAT for procedural irregularities. The resultant review of the process by a Christopher Wren QC, found council experienced a breakdown in good governance, staff failed to observe proper process, and public consultation was largely in house with a small number of people.

Sites of Faunal and Habitat Significance (North East Regional Organisation of Councils – NEROC) – Beardsell 1997.

This report explored 104 test sites, 52 of which were in Nillumbik and approximately 39 in the rural Nillumbik green wedge. It considered field collected data over the period 1986-1993 and made observations over that time that informed recommended conservation measures. It recommended conservation measures for local flora and fauna for each test site based on it's comparative significance. It recommended review every 5-10 years to assess change and review recommendations. It informed the imposition of Environmental Significance Overlays in 1998, 20 years ago. It is a particularly comprehensive conservation report. It does not consider communities, climate change or bushfire risk (and this was not the purpose of the report). It does not consider farming to be a legitimate or desirable land use, does not consider residents at all, and limits consideration of agriculture and home landscaping towards it's impost on the natural environment, excluding it from consideration of local biodiversity. Of the report actions (5) and recommendations (40), more than 60% have not been adopted and implemented, most notably those that deal with public landholdings and within the remit of the Victorian Government and conservation sector. Local conservation education is one of the few actions that is consistently funded although the effectiveness of the education in improving conservation outcomes is not known.

There has been no update of this report in 25 years. The soil, hydrology, climate, and field survey data, weed, pest, erosion management, flora and fauna quality or existence at the 39 test sites is not tested or known. The extent to which test site areas demonstrate any conservation management value today is not known. This report informed ESO1 – the preparation of which is limited to this report, ignoring social, economic and environmental considerations of the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

Best Practice Regulation: A guide for Ministerial Councils and National Standard Setting Bodies (2014)

Australian Government Best Practice Regulation Handbook (2007).

Australian Government Best Practice Regulation Report 2015-16 (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet)

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Social and Economic Sustainability

Paper 4 – Health and Wellbeing

Papers 1 through 3 identify the disadvantage, vulnerability and restricted choice experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities compared to urban Nillumbik communities including the increased social and economic risk to most in rural areas posed by land zoning that does not reflect the titled state of land.

This is paper 4. It considers the health and wellbeing disadvantage and vulnerability experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities compared to urban Nillumbik communities and how this may be considered in planning the sustainability of the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

The Nillumbik Council area performs well compared to the Victorian and metropolitan Melbourne average in terms of population health and wellbeing indicators. There are health inequities within the area and these affect population groups in different ways. These include:

- An elderly and ageing population – this is important because elderly people are vulnerable to experiencing disadvantage. In rural areas this can be more problematic, as elderly people can experience difficulties maintaining larger landholdings and can experience geographic and social isolation and difficulties in accessing services, facilities and the natural environment.
- Poor public transport access. In Nillumbik, 50% of the population do not live in close proximity to public transport. In rural Nillumbik, access to public transport can result in limiting access to facilities and services, and lead to geographic and social isolation. This is particularly important as people age (see elderly and ageing above).
- Nillumbik experiences low levels of population growth and this is expected to continue. It can be expected that rural areas will experience extremely low levels of population growth into the future.
- Nillumbik has limited housing options when compared to other council areas, and this limits accommodation choice (and is in some ways the reason why population growth in Nillumbik is and is forecast to continue to be, low). In rural Nillumbik, accommodation options are more limited than urban Nillumbik, and most other green wedge areas. This creates further limitations of choice for resident communities.
- Alcohol misuse across Nillumbik is significantly higher than both metropolitan Melbourne, and Victoria by almost 20% in adults.
- Young people in Nillumbik practice risky behaviour. In rural areas, this practice of young people is more difficult to address because of limited transport access which limits access to assistance and services for young people in rural Nillumbik, which is important because many areas of rural Nillumbik also have limited internet access, which can lead to geographic and social isolation of young people.
- Increased population density protects the population from cardiovascular and other diseases, and the rural Nillumbik green wedge communities are at higher risk of diseases than urban Nillumbik populations due to low levels of population density
- Long commute times to work have a range of negative impacts including high levels of stress and negative impacts on family, community, and poor financial and time

outcomes and this is experienced more in the rural Nillumbik green wedge than urban Nillumbik

- High to very high levels of psychological distress are low in Nillumbik compared to the Victorian and metropolitan Melbourne average. This is not the case in the rural Nillumbik green wedge, where levels are significantly higher than Nillumbik, Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne.
- Levels of depression and anxiety are high in Nillumbik compared to Victoria, and higher in rural Nillumbik than in metropolitan Nillumbik
- Participation in community groups and activities are higher in Nillumbik than Victoria, and research into bushfire recovery by Melbourne University supports involvement with community, and social connectedness with community being important to assist community recovery and resilience building post bushfire and major life stress events.
- In rural Nillumbik levels of poor mental health, experience of major life stress and bereavement are significantly higher than Victoria and levels of social, physical and emotional wellbeing are lower. When also considering that financial stress has been experienced and for many financial security levels are lower, rural Nillumbik green wedge communities compare poorly to urban Nillumbik communities.
- The effects of past bushfire events, when combined with expectations of future bushfire events can not be understated when considering the current and future health, wealth and wellbeing of rural Nillumbik communities.

In considering the review of the Nillumbik green wedge management plan council, and the panel must acknowledge the inequities that exist in health and wellbeing outcomes across urban and rural communities and consider the social and economic picture of rural Nillumbik green wedge communities, when compared to urban Nillumbik communities where rural communities experience:

- **More financial disadvantage**
- **High levels of financial risk**
- **Poor health, wellbeing and mental health outcomes and high levels of stress and distress and higher levels of vulnerability and**
- **Poor access to public transport and services**

Further, council and the panel may consider that a success measure of the green wedge management plan review could be the way the plan addresses inequities in providing for the sustainability of the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

References:

- Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Profile 2016 (based on ABS 2011)
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 Stakeholder and community engagement key findings report – June 2017
- Beyond Bushfires: Community Resilience and Recovery Final Report. November 2016, University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia , Gibbs L, Bryant R, Harms L, Forbes D, Block K, Gallagher HC, Ireton G, Richardson J, Pattison P, MacDougall C, Lusher D, Baker E, Kellett C, Pirrone A, Molyneaux R, Kosta L, Brady K, Lok M, Van Kessel G, Waters E.

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Social and Economic Sustainability

Paper 5 – Bushfire and the rural Nillumbik green wedge

Papers 1 through 3 identify the disadvantage, vulnerability and restricted choice experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities compared to urban Nillumbik communities.

Paper 4 shows the health and wellbeing disadvantage and vulnerability experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities compared to urban Nillumbik communities.

This is paper 5. It discusses bushfire and the rural Nillumbik green wedge

Victorian Government legislation on the issue of bushfire is conflicted, as is policy, strategy and guidelines, as government, government agencies and departments have confused priorities.

Bushfire Inquiry and Royal Commission Reports make recommendations to reduce the risk of occurrence, reduce the severity and reduce the impact of bushfire in Victoria. Report recommendations are consistent over the past 90 years. Unlike other jurisdictions (States and Territories) in Victoria there is no legal obligation for government to comply with and implement Royal Commission recommendations, however government typically commits to doing so. No government has met the commitments it has made and effectively managed the bushfire prevention risk.

The rural Nillumbik green wedge lies within CFA East West Region in District 13. It is one of the most bushfire prone places in the world.

*“The East Central region contains a **third** of Victoria’s total bushfire risk...this landscape has the most risk, reflecting its high population density close to forests. The landscape contains many of Victoria’s 28 bioregions, each comprising a unique set of landscape properties and associated plant and animal assemblages. From the tall Mountain ash forests of the Great Dividing Range to the dry foothill forests and grasslands, this landscape has some of the most flammable types of vegetation on earth.”²*

In the last 10 years in Victoria there have been two notable investigations of bushfire: the 2008 Inquiry into the 2002-3 and 2007-8 Victorian Fires (relating predominantly to forest management), and the 2009 Royal Commission into Victorian Bushfires (directly impacting on rural Nillumbik).

“ Victorian bushfires..... resulted in a level of destruction that will take the bush decades to recover from. The devastation caused by these bushfires is something that no Victorian ever wants to see again.

..... its recommendation for a substantial increase in prescribed/ecological burning may have a significant impact on the community and require a cultural change in some community attitudes. It believes this increased level

² Forest Fire Management Victoria – Reducing Victoria’s bushfire risk Fuel Management Report (2016-7)

*of prescribed burning will be of such benefit to the environment and the Victorian community that a unified commitment to promoting this change is essential.*³

The Inquiry focused on recommendations that protect Victoria's biodiversity and the Royal Commission focused on recommendations that prioritised human life, and then property and biodiversity. Recommendations from each report are similar and include:

- local solutions are tailored and known to communities through local bushfire planning
- improve advice on the nature of fire and house defendability
- local area bushfire plan to identify hazard trees and manage them
- develop, publish and provide to the community and industry information about ways in which existing buildings in bushfire-prone areas can be modified to incorporate bushfire safety measures
- The state fund and commit to a rolling 5% minimum burn target of public land per annum and meets public accountability of reporting including a clear risk analysis model of competing priorities where human life is the highest priority to enhance the protection of community and ecological assets.
- The State amend the exemptions in clause 52.17-6 of the Victoria Planning Provisions to ensure that the provisions allow for a broad range of roadside works capable of reducing fire risk and provide specifically for a new exemption where the purpose of the works is to reduce bushfire risk – and provide guidance to councils, and if needed amend environmental protection legislation so that roadside clearing occurs
- Vic Roads does a bushfire risk assessment for all roads
- to lessen the impact of more frequent and intense fires, as predicted by climate change projections
- provide a substantial and sustained increase in resources to conduct preventive activities

It is helpful to consider the extent to which recommendations made by the Inquiry and the Royal Commission have been implemented –

Has recommendation been addressed ? Source Reference	Implemented?
Forest Fire Management Victoria – Reducing Victoria's bushfire risk Fuel Management Report (2016-7) https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0025/88450/DELWP0064_FuelManagementReport_2017_v6_web_accessible.pdf The area is 2.3 million hectares, 65% is private land – residual risk is 76% and expected to increase to 84% by 2020 – which is the highest in Victoria	20,000 (minimum p/a) 2008 to 2017 - 3 of 10 – 30% compliance No
In council bushfire plan council to identify hazard trees and notify authorities to remove them	No
All Nillumbik council policies, strategies and guidelines appropriately tailored to consider local bushfire risk and protecting the life and property of rural Nillumbik green wedge residents as a core priority of council	No
Has Vic Roads Undertaken a bushfire risk assessment of roads?	?
The State amend the exemptions in clause 52.17-6 of the Victoria Planning Provisions to ensure that the provisions allow for a broad range of roadside works capable of reducing fire risk and provide specifically	No

³ Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria 2008

for a new exemption where the purpose of the works is to reduce bushfire risk	
A substantial and sustained increase in resources to conduct preventative activities will be needed	?

There is limited evidence locally that supports bushfire prevention being a local priority for Nillumbik council, the CFA, Vic Roads, DSE, Melbourne Water, DELWP and/or other government agencies.

Private land makes up 65% of the Region, and more than 85% of the rural Nillumbik green wedge. It is therefore important that bushfire preparation and mitigation is both a public authority responsibility, and a private landowner responsibility. The private landowner experience is that there is an increasing burden of bureaucracy in permitting requirements and costs to undertake routine, responsible bushfire preparation and prevention activities in areas covered by a Bushfire Management Overlay in the rural Nillumbik green wedge. There is no support for existing rural Nillumbik green wedge landowners to prepare defensible space to provide for the safety of homes, families and assets. There is no evidence the 4/10/30 rules provide defensible space to rural Nillumbik green wedge homes and families.

Current state government bushfire policy places emphasis on “leave early”. This appears sensible given the limitations on bushfire preparation on public and private landholdings, however when considered in conjunction with zoning challenges (which are a risk to most rural Nillumbik green wedge landowners), work and travel pressures and other considerations, the reality is that many rural Nillumbik green wedge landowners do not and will not leave their properties.

Bushfire preparedness of both public and private landholdings across the rural Nillumbik green wedge becomes more of a risk now and into the future when it is considered that Melbourne Water is about to hand 280 odd hectares of forest over to Warrandyte State Park, and the Sugarloaf Dam and Winneke Treatment Plant already have significant public forest areas, and this facility forms part of metropolitan Melbourne’s critical infrastructure, as well as presenting a significant risk to local families, properties and local biodiversity, and yet still government agencies do not fulfil prevention obligations on public landholdings.

In conducting the review of the Nillumbik green wedge management plan, council, and the panel, must consider:

- **the protection of human life, assets and biodiversity is not appropriately provided for in the rural Nillumbik green wedge, and this places residents, assets and the area’s biodiversity at risk**
- **an appropriate bushfire risk profile for the rural Nillumbik green wedge is one that provides for the safety of residents, their assets, and the environment**
- **Is there a difference between the appropriate profile of the whole rural Nillumbik green wedge, and those areas that have Bushfire Management Overlay?**
- **What actions are necessary to achieve this profile and who should take these actions - public authorities, community groups and private landowners?**

- Will council, and the panel, consider “as of right” clearance of defensible space that provide exemptions from permitting requirements for rural Nillumbik green wedge landowners.
- Is there a difference between private rural Nillumbik green wedge landholdings that are “recreational”, “hobby farms”, “bush blocks” and “agricultural”, and those with “Trust for Nature” covenants when it comes to bushfire prevention activities?

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Social and Economic Sustainability

Paper 6 – Climate Change in the rural Nillumbik green wedge

Papers 1 through 3 identify the disadvantage, vulnerability and restricted choice experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities compared to urban Nillumbik communities.

Paper 4 shows the health and wellbeing disadvantage and vulnerability experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities compared to urban Nillumbik communities.

Paper 5 considers the increased bushfire risk experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities and the risk this poses to life and property.

This paper is Paper 6. It specifically considers climate change in the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

Climate change is expected to lead to an increase in the incidence and/or magnitude of the following **climate change trends** (there is a high level of likelihood these things will occur)

More warmer and/or few colder days and nights	More heavy precipitation events
More warmer and/or more frequent hot days and nights	Extreme high sea levels
More warm spells/heat waves	Increased bushfire frequency and intensity

Of **climate change vulnerabilities** identified across the region, Nillumbik is at particular risk over and above the broader region in the following areas, almost all of which are bushfire risks:

All rural land covered by Bushfire/Wildfire Management Overlay is at risk	Water security is uncertain
Elderly people and those experiencing poor mental health are vulnerable to extreme weather	Power Security is uncertain
98.8% of the 290 square km of native vegetation and ecosystems are at risk from bushfire	Outdoor workers are vulnerable to extreme weather events
14,000 homes at risk of bushfire(the highest number of any northern area LGA)	49.2% of commercial/industrial zoned land is at risk of bushfire (the highest percentage in the north)
All land zoned rural and agricultural is at risk from bushfire	More than 78% of health and social infrastructure is at risk from bushfire
1170 homes are at risk of flooding	

The climate change risks are:

- **Extreme risk of more premature death events in Nillumbik, particularly rural Nillumbik**
- **High risk of increased “worst case” impact bushfire events**

Risk reduction and minimisation of cross-sector duplication of efforts in emergency response to extreme weather events is needed, but how this is to occur is not clear in planning to date.

Discussion:

For the rural Nillumbik green wedge to be sustainable it must develop resilience to manage the risks and vulnerabilities of climate change.

The most significant risk and vulnerability in Nillumbik, and in particular the rural Nillumbik green wedge is increased frequency and intensity of bushfire. This risk and vulnerability is higher and more severe than any expected by any other member of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action partner and any other Local Government Area.

Ways in which risks and vulnerabilities are managed (by government/business) include:

- Prevention – the elimination or reduction of the incidence or severity of emergencies occurring in the first instance;
- Response – the combating of emergencies and rescue and immediate relief services;
- Recovery – assisting to achieve a proper and effective level of functioning.

Planning for climate change to date ignores prevention as a strategy to mitigate and manage risks and vulnerabilities. Given the risk of bushfire is known and is high/extreme, and the consequences are known, are extreme, and include loss of life, property and ecosystems, all levels of government must consider prevention strategies in planning for the sustainability of the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

In considering the Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan review, council, and the panel must consider climate change planning predicts the greatest risk to the rural Nillumbik green wedge is the increase frequency and severity of bushfire, and ensure plan recommendations prioritise actions that prevent bushfire from occurring, as well as response and recovery actions when they have occurred. The consequences of failing to reduce the bushfire risk is more premature death, and “worse case” bushfire event outcomes and these do not provide for the sustainability of the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

Source References:

- Adaptation in the North an Integrated Regional Vulnerability Assessment, Volume 1, Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, 2015
- Nillumbik Shire Council Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
- Nillumbik Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2014-2017
- Nillumbik Climate Change Action Plan 2010-2015

“Bushfire and flood are currently considered to be of high residual risk (i.e. the risk remaining once existing management actions and controls have been implemented) (Department of Justice: 2014), with climate change increasing likelihood of occurring and increased consequence. This is of particular importance given that these have been identified as climate events relevant to the NAGA region. Emergency management has a vital role in building resilience and responding to the exacerbated impacts due to climate change. Given predictions of more frequent rapid-onset events such as bushfire, severe storms, flash floods and particularly heatwaves due to climate change, emergency management is likely to be stressed to effectively respond and protect against these impacts (OESC: 2012).”

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Social and Economic Sustainability

Paper 7 – Social Connectedness and Resilience

Papers 1 through 3 identify the disadvantage, vulnerability and restricted choice experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities compared to urban Nillumbik communities.

Paper 4 shows the health and wellbeing disadvantage and vulnerability experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities compared to urban Nillumbik communities.

Paper 5 considers the increased bushfire risk experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities and the risk this poses to life and property.

Paper 6 considers climate change, the level and type of risk that is expected in the rural Nillumbik green wedge, and how this may be considered in planning for sustainability.

This is paper 7. It considers community resilience, what it means, how it is considered and how it is relevant for Nillumbik, and the rural Nillumbik green wedge

There does not appear to be a universally agreed definition of what *community resilience* means, however there are nine core elements of commonality across definitions. The table below shows these, and also shows how each element is reflected in the rural Nillumbik green wedge:

	Core Element	How the rural Nillumbik green wedge reflects this element
1	Local Knowledge	Local landowners are current local knowledge subject matter experts. Local landowners also live with strategic, policy, legislative and regulatory consequences of green wedge management, and bear responsibility for its implementation. Local landowner support and ownership of green wedge management is a critical success factor to the sustainability of the rural Nillumbik green wedge, more than many other green wedge areas, as most (more than 85%) of the rural Nillumbik green wedge is owned privately.
2	Community Networks and Relationships	Networks across the area include green wedge sporting and pony clubs, community groups, fireguard groups, locality trusts, church and school groups, market hubs, vineyards and eateries and CFA stations.
3	Communication	A range of communication mediums and mechanisms are needed to promote and facilitate networks and relationships
4	Health	See paper 4 – rural Nillumbik green wedge communities experience poor health outcomes compared to urban Nillumbik communities and are more vulnerable to experiencing health, wellbeing and financial disadvantage compared to Nillumbik, metropolitan Melbourne and Victorian communities.
5	Governance /Leadership	Nillumbik council is the local governance provider, although the Emergency Services, and other State agencies and authorities, and the Commonwealth hold governance responsibilities.
6	Resources	Most landowners have limited access to electricity, technology, have no town water or town gas, and are not connected to town sewage. This makes green wedge communities susceptible to drought, isolation, and

		achieving poor lived outcomes where land use policy changes without considering the particular local circumstances. Investment in social infrastructure occurred after the 2009 bushfires, and most local primary schools, sports fields and grounds and community halls are in good condition and are valued community resources. Service access remains limited, as most services rely on population density for sustainability. The area is home to some of Victoria's 28 biodiversity sites and significant rivers and streams.
7	Economic Investment	More than 85% of the rural Nillumbik green wedge is privately owned. The rural Nillumbik green wedge economy is limited to agistment, stock feed production, winery and cellar door, fruit and vegetable and egg production, artist studio, general stores and local markets. Most employed landowners work outside the local area. The area is financially and economically vulnerable (see papers 1-3). Victoria has significant investment in infrastructure to serve metropolitan Melbourne locally, including Sugarloaf Dam and Winneke Treatment Plant, a gas and a water pipeline, and high voltage above ground power lines in the rural Nillumbik green wedge.
8	Preparedness	Preparedness varies markedly across public and private landholdings and in the rural Nillumbik green wedge, private landowner property maintenance and preparedness takes time, money and effort, and reduces social networking capability. This is important when considering building community resilience.
9	Mental outlook	See paper 4 – rural Nillumbik green wedge communities experience poor mental health outcomes compared to urban Nillumbik and Victorian communities and this is likely to effect their mental outlook

Community is considered central to resilience, preparedness and recovery in rural Victoria (and Australia). There is a tension between the use of the term as a reference to locality, and a “sense of community”, and the use of the term “community” by government agencies. In the past when planning bushfire preparedness fire and emergency services agencies have recognised the importance of working directly with local communities to improve local bushfire preparedness, but a limited understanding of how to do this has led to less effective prevention, protection and risk reduction which has meant people, assets and biodiversity remains at high risk of harm. The use of the word community is widespread in the context of policy making. Research supports the inappropriate use of the term leading **to less** than meaningful outcomes. Assigning the term “community” to a group to legitimise a political platform or support a plan of action does not create, build or sustain a community, and using the term to describe the mobilisation or organisation of residents in relation to disaster preparedness events is misleading, limiting and often confusing. For the rural Nillumbik green wedge, this assignation is pertinent as many local groups do seek to legitimise political platforms. This is challenging to work with and to some extent, is unavoidable - safety, prosperity and ideology are political issues as well as community issues – but the effect of this legitimising practice on community resilience and preparedness is worthy of note, as it tends to undermine or at least be less effective than social community networks.

Social participation and social connectedness are crucial aspects of community. The building and promoting of social networks lead to residents reporting a stronger experience of community. Building and promoting of these networks is called network building as this is the most appropriate description. The difference between a “sense of belonging” to a

community, building social networks and community as a locality should be clear and understood to effectively target programs and agency interventions. Those that are able to create, strengthen and build social networks for specific purposes are most likely to increase a sense of belonging and these may be useful for other purposes. The most effective activities to build community resilience are those that support the linking of people and promote and empower people to exercise choice and personal responsibility. Preparing communities for potential disasters may be most effective by creating opportunities for people to interact and learn from each other and prepare for bushfire, building social participation and network building to mobilise and build a sense of community through social networks, which enable connection and a feeling of community before and beyond the threat of bushfire. In doing this it is important people are able to take personal responsibility, and that different stakeholders fulfil different roles appropriately. For the rural Nillumbik green wedge it is important to note that research and evidence supports social networks being effective, and political networks are less effective.

Research supports:

- a resilience based approach to emergency management in Victoria, and therefore Nillumbik
- the importance of creating and building effective social networks to support community building and the building of community resilience and preparedness
- individual participation that enables personal responsibility and action
- clearly defined stakeholder roles and responsibilities

In conducting the rural Nillumbik green wedge management plan review, where community resilience is considered, council and the panel should be clear to ensure:

- 1. the 9 core elements of commonality of community resilience are integrated in thinking**
- 2. evidence supports the importance of creating and building effective social networks to support the building of community resilience – enabling networks and removing barriers to participation needs to be included in thinking**
- 3. rural Nillumbik green wedge landowner engagement is critical to achieving community resilience, and the sustainability of the rural Nillumbik green wedge**
- 4. this is challenging when landowner preparedness and maintenance responsibilities and the time that this takes is factored in to planning to engage**
- 5. landowners need to be empowered to take personal responsibility for disaster preparation in the rural Nillumbik green wedge.**

References:

- Social Connectedness and resilience, what do we mean by “Community Resilience”? A systematic literature review of how it is defined in the literature. SS Patel, M Brooke Rogers, R Amlot, GJ Rubin
- Creating “Community”? Preparing for Bushfire in Rural Victoria. Peter Fairbrother, Megan Tyler, Alison Hart, Bernard Meeds, Richard Phillips, Julie Stratford, Keith Toh, RMIT University
- Defining disaster resilience: comparisons from key stakeholders involved in emergency management in Victoria, Australia Natassia Goode, Paul M. Salmon, Caroline Spencer, Dudley McArdle, and Frank Archer, 2017

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Social and Economic Sustainability

Paper 8 – Risk of loss and harm to life and property caused by conflicting policy – risk to sustainability - Existing Use

Papers 1 through 3 identify the disadvantage, vulnerability and restricted choice experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities compared to urban Nillumbik communities.

Paper 4 shows the health and wellbeing disadvantage and vulnerability experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities compared to urban Nillumbik communities.

Paper 5 considers the increased bushfire risk experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities and the risk this poses to life and property.

Paper 6 considers climate change, the level and type of risk that is expected in the rural Nillumbik green wedge, and how this may be considered in planning for sustainability.

Paper 7 considers how resilience builds in communities and it's relevance for Nillumbik, and the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

This is Paper 8. It considers clause 63. of the Victorian Planning Provisions, and the risk this clause poses to rural Nillumbik green wedge residents and landowners, and the consideration of this risk in planning for the sustainability of the rural Nillumbik green wedge.

Paper 3 considers clause 30 Zones, and particularly Clause 35.06 the Rural Conservation Zone, and it's 5 schedules. Approximately 75% of all properties in the rural Nillumbik green wedge do not comply with and are smaller than the zone imposed on them. Most of these properties have homes on them. This is normal. Across Victoria in rural areas, the overwhelming majority of rural properties are smaller than the zone imposed on them.

What is not widely understood is the significant risk that this places these landowners and residents at in the event that their home is lost to flood or fire, or some other event.

In the event of loss, the Victorian Planning Provisions, provide clause 63 entitled Existing Use. Under this clause, a landowner may apply for a permit to re-establish their property under the following terms

- 63.01 Existing Use
 - Establishment requires continuous use of purpose for 15 years to establish eligibility
 - A permit is required to reinstate existing use
 - Existing use may be impacted by a zone applied see 63.04
 - Existing use may be impacted by damage to amenity 63.05
 - Existing use expires after 2 years where the use has stopped 63.06
 - Existing use must comply with Parliamentary Acts and Codes 63.07
 - Existing and alternate use may be impacted regardless of scheme compliance if the responsible authority is satisfied 63.08
 - Damage or destruction of buildings/works (more than 50%) must be undertaken with appropriate permits 63.10

- Decisions are subject to consideration by the responsible authority 63.12

The effect of this clause of the Victorian Planning Provisions is to provide no certainty that a rural landowner who loses their home will be able to re-establish. It creates significant uncertainty and presents a significant risk of loss of home, property, assets and family financial security.

Victorian government bushfire policy to reduce the loss of life is “leave early”. Victorian government planning provisions in rural Victoria, including the rural Nillumbik green wedge, place 75% of rural property owners at risk of significant emotional and economic loss if they do.

Compound this risk with:

- the Warrandyte Community Association, the Eltham Gateway Action Group and Friends of Nillumbik practice of opposing every application to build on a lot in the rural Nillumbik green wedge where the land size is less than the minimum size of the zone imposed on it, and
- the rural Nillumbik green wedge being (according to the Northern Area Climate Change Action Plan) the area most at risk of extreme bushfire events, loss of assets and loss of life into the future

and the social and economic risk to 75% of rural Nillumbik green wedge landowners is further escalated and is almost certain to be realised.

Research⁴ finds that negative wealth shock is linked to higher rates of depression, mental illness, physical illness, relationship breakdown and shorter life expectancy. This likely outcome on the rural Nillumbik green wedge community, when positioned within the context of loss being an almost certain event, is unacceptable, more so when it is considered that this community achieves health and wellbeing outcomes that are lower than and is more vulnerable than, the urban Nillumbik community, metropolitan Melbourne, and Victorian community in the first instance.

In undertaking the review of the Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan, council, and the Panel must ensure recommendations protect rural Nillumbik green wedge landowners from loss and harm as their first priority.

References:

- Victorian Planning Provisions – Department of Environment Land Water and Planning <http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/schemes/nillumbik>
- University of Melbourne – Professor Nick Haslam

⁴ Journal of American Medical Association and Melbourne University School of Psychology

Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan Review 2017-18

Paper 9 – Then and Now

Papers 1 through 3 identify the disadvantage, vulnerability and restricted choice experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities compared to urban Nillumbik communities.

Paper 4 shows the health and wellbeing disadvantage and vulnerability experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities compared to urban Nillumbik communities.

Paper 5 considers the increased bushfire risk experienced by rural Nillumbik green wedge communities and the risk this poses to life and property.

Paper 6 considers climate change, the level and type of risk that is expected in the rural Nillumbik green wedge, and how this may be considered in planning for sustainability.

Paper 7 considers community resilience, what it means, how it is considered and how it is relevant for Nillumbik, and the rural Nillumbik green wedge

Paper 8 considers Rural Conservation Zone misalignment, and the risk this poses to landowners in the rural Nillumbik green wedge

This is paper 9 – it considers the historical context in the time green wedges were first created, and today's context. This is important for the rural Nillumbik green wedge management plan because of the inter-relationships between social, economic and environmental policy and legislation over time, and that the sustainability of the rural Nillumbik green wedge now and into the future needs to be contextualised within the **current** social, economic and environmental construct.

Then - When green wedges were created was at the end of the Nation Building Era	Now – managing green wedges exists within the context of a mature and ageing population
<p>Australia was fighting the Vietnam War (withdrew in 1972)</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People included in the Census for the first time</p> <p>Conscription or compulsory national service still existed</p> <p>All Australians qualified for an aged pension</p> <p>The Australian era of multiculturalism – the white Australia policy was abolished</p> <p>Pay equality was legislated so that women and men performing the same role received the same wage by law</p> <p>A university education was free</p> <p>There was no universal health system</p> <p>Home loan interest rates shifted from 5.88% - 9.13%</p> <p>Home ownership reached 70%</p> <p>CPI ranged from 3.5% - 15.3%</p>	<p>Equality and equal opportunity are normalised and protected by law</p> <p>Aged Pension age increase plus eligibility criteria – and the shift towards self funded</p> <p>Australia is a multicultural country</p> <p>Equality and equal opportunity are normalised and protected by law</p> <p>Most University degrees are pay for study – Australia's largest industry</p> <p>Medicare, NDIS, Public Hospitals – shift towards privatisation and self determination/direction</p> <p>Interest rate average 3.7%</p> <p>Home ownership still around 70% - higher locally</p> <p>CPI about 1.9%</p> <p>Unemployment 5.5%</p> <p>Family tax benefit assets and means tested – and prioritise the more vulnerable in the community</p> <p>Oil price variability</p>

<p>Unemployment rate ranged from 1.6% to 6.1%</p> <p>Child endowment and child tax rebates were normalised</p> <p>World oil crisis</p> <p>Kakadu and Great Barrier Reef were proclaimed National Parks</p> <p>Most back yards had an incinerator</p> <p>Household rubbish collection was combined in tin bins</p> <p>Approximate Population: Arthurs Creek – 120, Christmas Hills – 120, Doreen – 250, Hurstbridge 1976 – 1021, Panton Hill – 300, Research – 350, St Andrews 300</p> <p>God Save the Queen was sung every morning when the flag was raised at school</p> <p>Registered vehicles 6,347 per 10,000</p> <p>3,694 road fatalities – 5.82 per 10,000 registered vehicles and 26.6 per 100,000 population</p> <p>Average working week 35 hours</p> <p>Men working part time 5%</p> <p>Women working part time 33%</p>	<p>Sugarloaf Dam is one of the two main water treatment facilities in Victoria</p> <p>Approximate Population: Arthurs Creek – 454, Bend of Islands – 279, Christmas Hills – 344, Doreen – 11,500, Hurstbridge 2016 – 3500, Panton Hill – 230, Research – 2700, St Andrews - 420</p> <p>Advance Australia Fair might be sung at school assembly once a week</p> <p>Registered vehicles 7,689 per 10,000</p> <p>1,225 road fatalities – 4.98 per 100,000 population</p> <p>Average working week 34 hours</p> <p>Men working part time 17%</p> <p>Women working part time 46%</p>
<p>1968 Liberal Premier Rupert Hamer decided to follow the British model of creating rural rings around metropolitan areas (creating Melbourne's green wedge)</p>	<p>Green wedge areas ring is now perforated but remains in place. Current government policy and strategy is Plan Melbourne – it designates 12 green wedge areas across 17 municipalities.</p> <p>Green wedge areas contain a mix of agriculture and low-density activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> major infrastructure that supports urban areas, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melbourne and Moorabbin airports the western and eastern water treatment facilities major quarries used in the building industry cultural heritage sites biodiversity conservation areas water catchments <p>About one third of the total green wedge area is public land, including national parks, other parks, reserves, and closed protected water catchments. Green wedges accommodate agricultural and recreational uses and a variety of functions that support Melbourne. Uses support urban activity but can not be located in urban areas. Areas need to be properly managed so that valued features and attributes are protected, balancing the needs of the community, the economy and the environment.</p> <p>Policy 1.4.1 Protect agricultural land and support agricultural production</p>

	<p>Policy 1.4.2 Identify and protect extractive resources (such as stone and sand) important for Melbourne's future needs</p> <p>Direction 4.5 Plan for Melbourne's green wedges and peri-urban areas</p> <p>As Melbourne grows, planning for Melbourne's green wedges and peri-urban areas is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect biodiversity assets, including national and state parks, Ramsar wetlands and coastal areas – <i>the Nillumbik green wedge houses part of Warrandyte state park</i> • support existing and potential agribusiness activities, forestry, food production and tourism – <i>the Nillumbik green wedge includes existing activities – opportunity?</i> • protect major state infrastructure and resource assets, including water supply dams and water catchments and waste management and recycling facilities – <i>the Nillumbik green wedge includes water supply catchment and treatment</i> • support renewable energy sources such as wind and solar farms – <i>opportunity?</i> • protect extractive industries – <i>opportunity?</i> • provide a recreational resource, which contributes to public health outcomes for all Victorians – <i>the Nillumbik green wedge will need infrastructure (car parking, roads, amenities) opportunity?</i> <p>These valued features, assets and industries should be prioritised before other land uses. <i>What is the status quo in rural Nillumbik green wedge?</i> Future growth in the green wedges and peri-urban areas will be managed to protect productive land, strategic economic resources, heritage and biodiversity assets, while accommodating additional housing and employment in established towns in the outer peri-urban areas that have the capacity for growth. Many towns in green wedges have limited growth potential.</p> <p>Consistent with Plan Melbourne and the Regional Growth Plans, planning for green wedge and peri-urban areas should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • define and protect areas that are strategically important to the metropolitan area and the state, for the environment, biodiversity, landscape, open space, water, agriculture, energy, recreation, tourism, environment, cultural heritage, infrastructure, extractive and other natural resources – <i>what are rural Nillumbik green wedge important strategic areas?</i>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and manage the value of green wedges consistent with green wedge management plans • avoid development in locations where there is risk to life, property, the natural environment and infrastructure from natural hazards such as bushfire and flooding – <i>what about existing homes and development – what are the implications for townships?</i> • accommodate additional housing and employment in established towns that have the capacity for growth – <i>what are the implications for local townships? Nillumbik does not lift it's weight at all in terms of accommodating population growth – to retain the rural Nillumbik green wedge what changes need to occur in townships to more appropriately share the growth burden of Melbourne outside of the green wedge?</i> • provide for non-urban breaks between urban areas. – <i>opportunity?</i> <p>Policy 4.5.1 Strengthen protection and management of green wedge land – <i>are existing protections duplicated locally – what does protection mean? Protection from development, use or from bushfire?</i></p> <p>Policy 4.5.2 Protect and enhance valued attributes of distinctive areas and landscapes - <i>what are these attributes and do they appropriately target protection or do they duplicate? Is protection from development, use or bushfire?</i></p> <p>Policy 6.1.2 Facilitate the uptake of renewable energy technologies – <i>opportunity?</i></p> <p>Direction 6.2 Reduce the likelihood and consequences of natural hazard events and adapt to climate change – <i>this risk is extreme and protection negligible – are existing protections likely to achieve this?</i></p>
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In considering the green wedge review of the rural Nillumbik green wedge in 2018 the panel and council needs to be clear that

1. The context within which the rural Nillumbik green wedge exists today, and tomorrow, is very different to that when it was first established
2. The current specific valued features and attributes of the rural Nillumbik green wedge today should be known, articulated and appropriately prioritised
3. The rural Nillumbik green wedge agricultural and recreational uses and other functions that support Melbourne need to be articulated
4. The needs of the rural Nillumbik green wedge:
 - a. community
 - b. economy
 - c. environment

are articulated, defined and are clear. This includes considering that 85% of the rural Nillumbik green wedge is owned privately and that most private landholdings are classified as hobby farms– how does private vs public management differ and how does the plan accommodate and acknowledge the majority of privately owned properties being hobby farms?

5. Proper management of the rural Nillumbik green wedge should respond to specific current policy priorities including:
 - a. Growing established townships with capacity for growth
 - b. Strengthening protection of green wedge land
 - c. Protecting and enhancing valued attributes
 - d. Facilitating the update of renewable energies
 - e. Reducing the likelihood and consequences of natural hazard events and adapting to climate change

And this needs to be defined so that it's meaning is clear and equitable for all, and in particular those who own 85% of the area.

6. What are the likely consequences of green wedge management recommendations for non rural Nillumbik green wedge areas and townships keeping in mind that if the management of the green wedge needs to support metropolitan Melbourne's growth, other areas that are part of metropolitan Melbourne need also to address metropolitan Melbourne's growth?

References:

- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (2015), Victoria's Renewable Energy Roadmap
- <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/business-management/new-landholders/tips-before-purchasing-rural-land>
- ABS
- RBA
- *Parliamentary Research Service Background Paper 9 – 1994 – From there to back again?*
- *Australian Inflation and Unemployment 1964-1993*
- www.victorianplaces.com.au

PREPARING a GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN according to DELWP PRACTICE NOTE 31.

Rev 2. By David Nicholls 13/07/2018

No	TOPIC	Page	STATEMENT in Practice Note No. 31	Status (Done?)	Comment on Nillumbik Shire Council GWMP Review
1	What is a GWMP ?	1	The plan will identify the values and features of the GW, environmental and natural resources that should be protected.	In process	This should be an early part of the planning process. Valuable data from abandoned C101 and C81 may be available
2	What is expected for Green Wedges ?	2	Management of residential development	(No)	Small lot development decisions promised but outstanding. The development which may be in high quality bushland threatens continuity of vegetation and will increase threats to the natural environment due to landowner residence and activities. Increased isolated occupation should not be allowed in bush areas with poor access to services and with high bushfire threat.
3	What are the aims of the GWM process ?	2	Identify values and features within the GW to be protected and enhanced, based on a detailed environmental and land use inventory, community consultation and research. (see items 2 and 3). Be consistent with Govt policies and strategies.	Require update	See comment above for item 1. Govt policies and strategies would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity- 2037 • Guidelines for removal, lopping and destruction of native vegetation • Flora and fauna guarantee But these are not referenced by the Plan !
4	Ditto	2	Establish a strategic direction for land use , consistent with govt. policies and which protects the identified values and features of the GW	Promise to modify protection to benefit landowner	See comment above for item 3. The Council Plan 2017 – 2021 only promises “community satisfaction” as a strategic indicator to the 2 top priorities under the heading of “Safe and Healthy Environments”. The objective is to

					have the State Planning scheme reviewed so “it is easier and clearer for all stakeholders” and “To review the impacts of the GWMP on those living in landscape”.
No	TOPIC	Page	STATEMENT in Practice Note No. 31	Status (Done?)	Comment on Nillumbik Shire Council GWMP Review
5	Ditto	3	Develop sustainable land management programs for landholders to achieve improved land stewardship	Expand existing plan	The concept of stewardship is minimised in the Council GWMP, instead impacts on owners of environmental protection is to be investigated.
6	What is the preparation process for a GWMP ?	4	There is a diagram showing a series of actions to be undertaken in series to prepare a GWMP The second step is “information gathering, which includes exploration of existing information.”	This step ignored	The existing GWMP was published in 2010 and the bibliography needs to be updated. However it was generally accepted as very complete reflection of the management due to recognise the special Nillumbik ethic and environment. Council have decided that our well researched GWMP should be scrapped and a completely new version should be drafted in a scheduled period of about 3 months.
7	Ditto	4	As above, the second step also requires enquiry on the existence of any gaps.	This step is ignored	A large gap in our knowledge of special environmental areas was created when the current council was elected and immediately scrapped an extensive and complete update of the existing Environmental Significance Overlay system. This was based on aerial mapping plus expert on-ground truthing and some ESOs were deleted where habitat had declined and others added where original good habitat had not been previously recognised. As with the original ESO, there was again landowner objection to the

					imposition of an ESO on their land.
8	Ditto	4	As above, the second step also requires that research be undertaken to support the drafting of the GWMP	This step is ignored	Research is to be done by qualified and experienced experts. Recommendations come not from researchers but from a “citizen jury” whose members are randomly selected. Some are unlikely to understand or rate the research even if it was explained to them.
No	TOPIC	Page	STATEMENT in Practice Note No. 31	Status (Done?)	Comment on Nillumbik Shire Council GWMP Review
9	Ditto	4	The 4 th step is to “Review existing policies and programs, do they need to be changed, enhanced or better resourced”.	This step is ignored	No deficiency in the approach or detail of the existing GWMP has so far been disclosed in extensive community discussions on pros and cons. And yet there is pressure by Council to relax protection of vegetation and biodiversity even though there is much expert information at State Government level on the serious decline of both.
10	Reference to the Council Plan	4	The 4 th step also asks the question as to whether the Review will “deliver the vision and objectives.” The <u>Council Plan</u> identifies the following objectives at Strategic Objective 3 – Safe and Healthy Environments: 3.1.1 Review the planning scheme in concert with State Government reforms, in consultation with residents, with the aim to make it easier and clearer for all stakeholders. 3.1.2 Review the impacts of the GWMP on those living in the	These reviews, etc have not been done.	<u>Council Plan</u> 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 There is no reference in the plan to the “natural environment” and elsewhere in the document the word “environment” (= “surroundings”) is often used in the context of our living or working environment, (e.g. only 2 of 16 strategic indicators in the plan relate to natural environment). The closest phrase used to “natural environment” is the word “landscape” (as in the plan heading, “Living in the Landscape”.) The phrase, “Healthy and safe communities enjoy living in our iconic environment” probably relates to rural and township living. The word usage definition is critical to our understanding of the

			landscape. 3.1.3 Clarify the planning scheme to enhance opportunities for agricultural enterprises and tourism to prosper in appropriate ways in rural areas of Nillumbik 3.1.4 Develop a new shire-wide housing strategy to enhance Nillumbik's neighbourhood character.		Council's strategy. 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 3.1.3 suggests tourist development and 3.1.4 speaks of "shire wide housing." It is unlikely that increased housing in the rural zone would enhance Nillumbik's neighbourhood character, particularly if suburban architecture is imported.
No	TOPIC	Page	STATEMENT in Practice Note No. 31	Status (Done?)	Comment on Nillumbik Shire Council GWMP Review
11	Principles for GWMP preparation	4	Consistency with Vic Sate Govt. policies and strategies	No evidence of this	Govt policies and strategies would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity- 2037 • Guidelines for removal, lopping and destruction of native vegetation • Flora and fauna guarantee But these are not referenced by the Plan !
12	A common basis for prep of plans	5	A GWMP should be prepared in partnership with government and councils and landowners in their role as custodians with a duty of care for the resource base.	No evidence to public of partnership with State Government	The "resource base" would include agricultural and natural resources. The directions provided in the Council Plan regarding the protection of the natural environment and biodiversity run counter to government policy recognising the need to arrest and reverse decline in both. The word 'sustainable' is used by council to describe desired land use. However our environmental health is in serious decline and needs to be repaired. Its rate of loss of biodiversity makes Australia the second worst country in this regard. Thus it is not adequate to just 'sustain' the status quo.

					(Incidentally this message on the inadequacy of environmental 'sustainability' was a theme at Australia's entry in the 2018 Venice Architectural Biennale.)
13	A well informed, inclusive plan process		Preparation should take into account the varying levels of knowledge about each GW area shared between Council, government departments and agencies, community organisations, landowners and gen public	What is being contributd by govt. Dept. & agencies ?	There is no mention in the GMWP review process of the parts being played by government departments and agencies (e.g. PPWPCMA). We do know that landowners resenting controls for natural environment protection are well heard and often referenced by council.
No	TOPIC	Page	STATEMENT in Practice Note No. 31	Status (Done?	Comment on Nillumbik Shire Council GWMP Review
14	Ditto	5	Previous relevant work that is consistent with the strategic and policy intent of state government policies and strategies can be included in the process and can provide a useful basis for the preparation of the plan	Current GWMP	Previous GWMP falls into this category but has been discarded by Council although hopefully not by staff planners. See also State Govt policy statements at item 11
15	Ditto	5	PPWPCMA Strategy information can be made available	Is this being referenced?	
16	Ditto	5	GWMP processes should demonstrate transparency... and seek to build partnerships and shared ownership		There is lack of transparency in Council influence and decision making. However we anticipate that it is very powerful, particularly in the latter stages of the process.
17	A common approach to preparation of GWMPs	5	Project steering group, established by Council, with representation of key stakeholders would have the following roles:		This approach requires Council to establish a Project Steering Group and a Working Group. If it has, these are not visible to the public. The roles appear to be shared as follows;

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Input to preparation of a project plan 2. Endorse milestones 3. Publicity and promotion 4. Oversee project briefs for tasks done in preparation of GWMP 5. Ensure engagement of research and consultation to assist process. 6. Oversee public display of formal input and draft plans 		<p>Mosaic Lab, (1, 2, 3,) Council and staff (1, 4, 5, 6) However Council might nominate Mosaic Lab as the Project Steering Group. Although Mosaic Lab is not comprised of key stakeholders it conducts a conversation with them. Council does not !</p>
18	Stakeholder/ landowner Involvement	6	The development of the plan is not intended to reopen debates regarding existing government policies and strategies.		This has now happened in our shire and the Council's proposed direction is counter to State Government policy. Council will attempt to reverse this government policy at the next election.
No	TOPIC	Page	STATEMENT in Practice Note No. 31	Status (Done?)	Comment on Nillumbik Shire Council GWMP Review
19	Role of the Department	6	<p>Department officers are available to assist councils in the preparation of a GWMP by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participating in the project steering and working groups as needed, • liaising with Councils 	?	It seems like a good idea to engage with the State Government, given the review of non-compliance with State Govt guidelines above
20		6	It is anticipated that the department will be involved in the development of each GWMP	?	Is this happening?
21		6	It is anticipated that the department will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the draft GWMP prior		<p>Will this happen ?</p> <p>It is not nominated in any GWMP review schedule.</p>

			to it being adopted by Council		
22	Footnote	6	Practice note 31 (dated June 2015) provides a guide for the preparation of GWMPs and sets out the general requirements that should be met. The practice note covers the policy context and basis for the plans, their content and status. It is quite possible that some omissions by Council perceived as above are routinely being processed by planning staff, but in that case, that process is not described to us in descriptions of the GWMP review process.		



Nillumbik Horse Action Group Inc.

Position Paper - July 2018

Nillumbik Shire Council - Green Wedge Management Plan Review

The Nillumbik Horse Action Group Inc. is a committed group of community minded residents, formed to support and advocate on behalf of horse owners and riders within the Shire of Nillumbik.

The NHAG works to

- 1/ Preserve, maintain and improve the shire's shared recreation trail network
- 2/ Acknowledge and sustain the equine culture and character of rural Nillumbik which we believe contribute significantly to the:
 - aesthetic appeal
 - feel and identity
 - amenity
 - viability and sustainable future of the Nillumbik Green Wedge

3/ Educate and advise the local equine community on best practice land management for their properties

4/ Support the preservation of the Nillumbik Green Wedge and its rural character - both the bush and cleared landscapes

Proposition

The 'Green Wedge' isn't just land, it includes the people who live and work here and the communities they are part of.

Our 'natural environment' isn't just the bush.

We believe that existing grazing land and treed pastures contribute as significantly to the Nillumbik Green Wedge as vegetated areas and should be valued, preserved and protected by the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.

It is important to protect existing grazing land that supports popular rural uses such as the keeping of animals.

We suggest that grazing land which supports the keeping of animals, helps guarantee a sustainable Green Wedge now and into the future. Small property acreage (which is the predominant landholding in the Nillumbik Green Wedge) is primarily suitable for 'hobby farms' and 'lifestyle properties' and keeping some grazing animals is often a big part of the appeal of living here. On settling in, people become part of our vibrant communities, enjoy and usually work hard on their properties, thereby

contributing socially, economically and environmentally to the ongoing sustainability of our Green Wedge.

We feel that 'horse keeping' is one of the largest (if not the largest) rural 'activity group' and rural economic driver within the shire, not only in the number of properties that are used for this purpose, but the broad reach of the dollar benefit through affiliated industries and activity.

All aspects of the shire's rural character should be afforded the same significance in contributing to and sustaining the Green Wedge. Combined they create the quintessential 'Nillumbik Landscape' that is so valued.

To meaningfully protect and prevent grazing on land of actual, identified (ground truthed) 'high biodiversity value', we suggest an initiative where property owners can access a voluntary take-up of 'Trust for Nature' Covenants that are sponsored by council.

Background

- Horse ownership and keeping occur throughout the entire rural and semi-rural areas of the shire.
- A strong equine culture and heritage exists within Nillumbik which has influenced the rural landscape of the Nillumbik Green Wedge.
- Small property ownership (30 acres or less) underpins our rural areas and the Green Wedge overall.
- Horse keeping is a legitimate rural land use and hence the value and importance of horse properties in the management of land within the Nillumbik Green Wedge should be recognized, acknowledged and supported.
- Equestrian activities in Nillumbik have more than double the State and National percentages of participation and trail riding is one of the top 5 non-organized recreational pursuits and one of the top 10 most popular recreational activities in Nillumbik. (*Market Research for the Nillumbik Recreation Strategy 2010-2018*)
- Eltham is the site of the first pony club in Victoria established in 1954 and Nillumbik is home to more riding clubs than any other shire in Victoria, housing 5 Adult Riding Clubs, 5 Pony Clubs, a Riding Develops Abilities Group, a recreational trail riders' group and several riding schools.
- The vast majority of 'riding club' members own and live on rural properties in Nillumbik and on average would spend several thousand dollars per horse and (potentially) on their property management annually (fencing, weed control, pasture improvement etc.).
- Horse ownership/keeping and riding encourages:
 - Strong, multi-generational social benefit, influencing community engagement
 - Healthy, outdoor lifestyles
 - Beneficial, pro-active land management and quality rural infrastructure
 - Significant spend in related local businesses

What we know (council statistics)

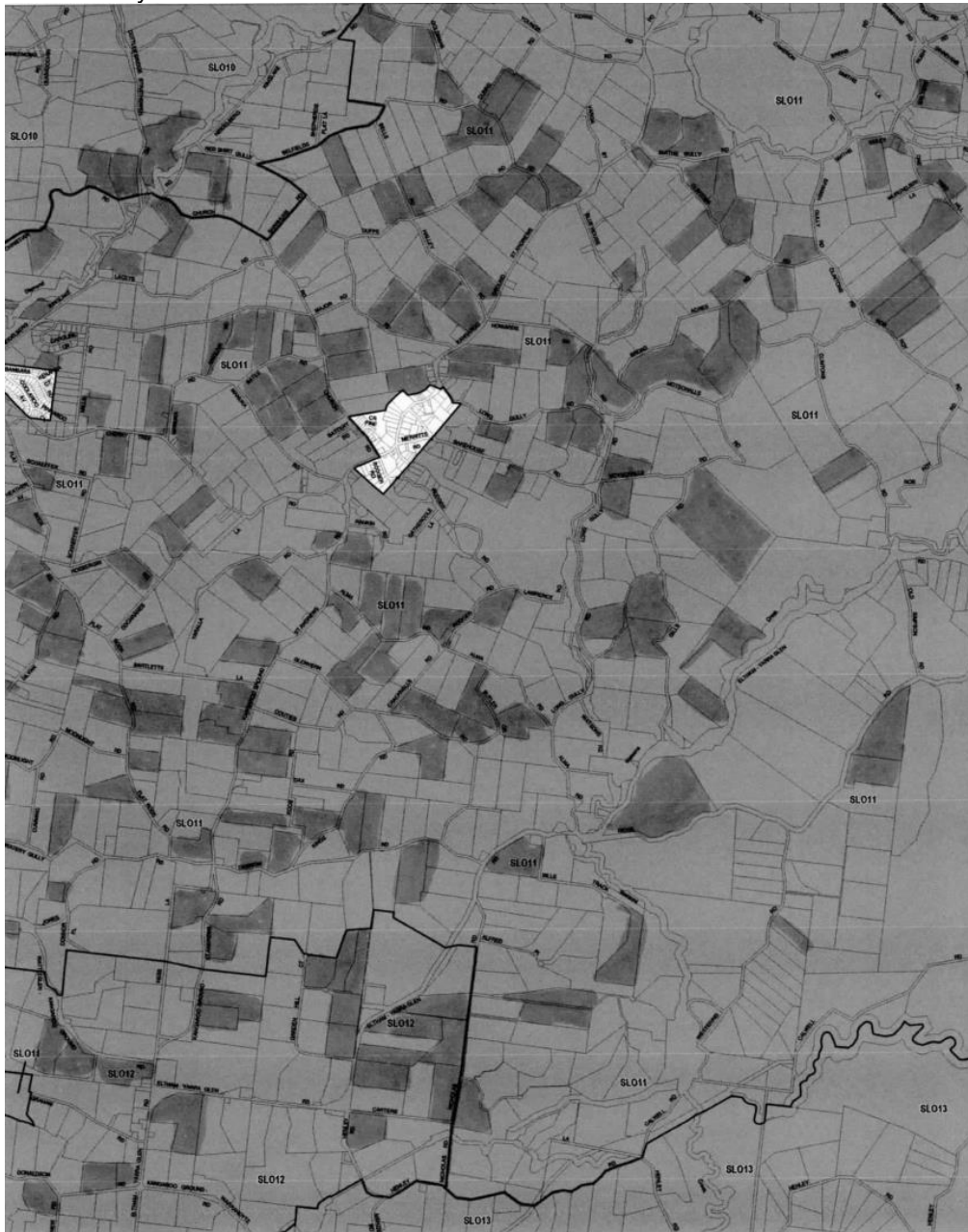
- 91% of Nillumbik Shire is Green Wedge
- 79% of the Green Wedge is privately owned
- 47% of GW land is used for 'rural-residential living'
- 20% of GW land is used for 'agriculture' – but what exactly?
- 20% of GW land is used for 'conservation'
- 43% of land in the Green Wedge has 'environmental values' – what does this mean?

What we need to know

- What % of privately owned land in the Green Wedge fits the 'hobby farm' criteria of being 30 acres or less and what is the % breakdown of acreage sizes?
- Of the 79% of land in private ownership, what % is cleared land and what % is vegetated?
- Of the 79% of land in private ownership, what are the most popular rural activities / uses and what % of land is used for these purposes?
- What % of properties are used for horse keeping?
- What % are used for other grazing animals?

Example of Number of Horse Properties in a Sample Area

Shaded areas are horse properties in the former (proposed) 'Significant Landscape Overlay' SLO11 'Bushy Slopes' covering Kangaroo Ground, Watsons Creek, (parts of) Hurstbridge, Panton Hill, Smiths Gully and St Andrews.



Working with Council

The NHAG is working with council in the development of an 'Equine Industry & Activity Strategy'.

Initial scoping via a shire-wide survey will help quantify what we already understand anecdotally, that the equine community's contribution is significant and far reaching.

The data will inform our understanding of the opportunities and challenges for the ongoing management of the Nillumbik Green Wedge and how council can better support small property land owners and equine related clubs in the shire.

Don't wish away the horses...

45 years ago, I played with horses in the huge open pastures along the Koonung Creek in Bulleen and North Balwyn.

35 years ago, I rode horses along the dirt roads and orchard trails of Templestowe and Donvale.

25 years ago, I explored on horseback the bush tracks and paths of Park Orchards and Ringwood East.

I can't do that anymore, as we all know those areas are very different now.

Today, I ride my horses along the tracks, trails and dirt roads of Kangaroo Ground and Panton Hill. This time, I will do all that I can to make sure we don't lose that privilege to suburban development.

Years ago, whilst attending a Recreational Trails Advisory Committee Meeting at the Shire of Nillumbik, I met some people who seemed to be 'wishing away the horses'. Apparent fears of 'environmental damage' from a hoof or dropping in the wrong place at the wrong time were fervently expressed. Now tell me - did such damage make any difference to the environment today in North Balwyn, Donvale or Ringwood East?

Our challenge is much bigger than a hoof print and I am writing this to remind people of what else they may be inadvertently wishing away!

As local residents, we pride ourselves as living in a 'green wedge', blessed with open space, picturesque rural vistas, rolling pastures, natural bushlands and a sparse population in comparison to the rest of Melbourne. There are local planning zones, local pressure groups and local desires to, at least, preserve this unique area as it is.

Whilst we have this 'green wedge' to enjoy and protect, we will always have people tagged as 'horse riders', 'environmentalists' or a combination in-between. But in reality, this group of determined and outspoken people all have the same aim – to preserve our Nillumbik Green Wedge.

We must join forces and with communication and reasonable compromise, we can instill a community attitude and infrastructure that supports the needs and passions of us all. This can only add strength to the ongoing preservation of the 'green wedge'. We all, for our own reasons, treasure this very special area of Melbourne.

To anyone who might be concerned about horses in our rural and semi-rural communities, I can only say:

Don't wish away the horses.... for we know so much more will disappear with them!

Carolyn Johnston

Kangaroo Ground Resident

July 2018

Submissions received via email / fax

2018-07-13 06:06 AUSPOST
13/12
TO FAX
334019 >> Nillumbik Shire Council
Fax-9001
P 1/2
OPEN Submission for
G.W.M.P
attention: [REDACTED]
2 pages - including this front page
(1 page submission)
From
Fax/ed [REDACTED]
Thank you.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
OR P.O. Diamond Creek 3089
[REDACTED] - Templestowe Heights
3107

To [REDACTED] FROM [REDACTED]

FOR Green Wedge Management

③ I object as ^{OPEN} site specific stakeholder on lands [REDACTED]

④ I object as an impacted stakeholder, ratepayer in Shire of Nillumbik and as an citizen of Victoria and CWT of Australia

Reasons ① It is discriminatory for the landowners whose properties will be frozen, and "tramples" on their "Human Rights"

② It is unfair, unreasonable and inequitable to impacted landowners. It should be "voluntary" not "arbitrary"

③ It has far reaching consequences to the future land use of properties personally and financially.

④ It takes away 'freedom' of landowners and (future)

⑤ It has forged ahead on an "incorrect foundation" in Diamond Creek and Yarrambat (and in my view other areas.)

⑥ It "cements in law" an huge travesty of justice and 'anomaly' on landowners in Diamond Creek and Yarrambat

⑦ It allows neighbours in some areas to make huge financial gain by use of supposed green wedge lands to be the "amenity" in their sub-division plans.

⑧ It allows a 'contradictory' land use on green wedge lands to be used for many purposes such as "utilities" with excuse of "green wedge!"

⑨ I REQUEST TO BE HEARD BEFORE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION FOR MINISTER PARLIAMENT.

⑩ PLEASE REVISIT ALL MY SUBMISSIONS and EVIDENCE

To: Nillumbik Shire Council

Attention: Green Wedge Management Plan Submission ("GWMP")

Concerning: [REDACTED] Yarrambat 3091

Date: 13 July 2018

Prior to Council's recommendation to the Community Panel, I wish to be heard by Council and then Community Panel.

I object to my land's inclusion in Green Wedge. This land belongs in the urban boundaries of Diamond Creek, Plenty or Yarrambat. Evidence previously given has been disregarded.

If the review of this plan proceeds prior to zoning errors to my land being incorrectly labelled "rural" instead of "urban".

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 13 July 2018 4:55 PM
To: Nillumbik; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: GWMP Consultation Submission

Attention [REDACTED] for bellow team and process

GWMP Consultation Submission 2018/07/13

[REDACTED] wishes to be heard on its submission by Nillumbik Council and the Community Panel. It will be presented

- 1) We abject strenuously to our lands being subjected to GWMP process as their were located in plenty growth corridor and not Green Wedge prior to this change
 - 2) We will expend our on submission when we are heard
 - 3) Council already has evidence, town planning and legal support from us supporting this lands true urban categorization
 - 4) We submit this Green Wedge process to be deferred until the mistakes and the anomalies to this property are fairly and equitably corrected
 - 5) Otherwise if its not done the GWMP will remain incorrect
 - 6) See evidence already submitted to this new council and previously, most recent process [REDACTED] yet or still overlooked
- [REDACTED]

PALS Submission



Nillumbik Pro Active Landowners (PALS)

SUBMISSION TO COMMUNITY PANEL

NILLUMBIK SHIRE COUNCIL

GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW 2018

July 13, 2018



NILLUMBIK SHIRE COUNCIL

GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW 2018

SUBMISSION TO COMMUNITY PANEL

Nillumbik Pro Active Landowners (PALS)

July 13, 2018

Nillumbik Pro Active Landowners (“PALS”) is a group of approximately 2,000 landowners, residents and ratepayers, the majority of which live in the peri urban and rural parts of the Nillumbik Shire. It was formed in early 2016 in response to unpopular proposed local planning scheme amendments. As a result of PALS legal (and electoral) actions, (which influenced eventual composition of the current Nillumbik Shire Councillor corps), the amendments did not make it into law. The group has since been tasked with representing its constituents on a range of issues considered of vital importance to their lives, families, properties and interests.

As one Victoria’s Shires most known for its significant Green Wedge areas, the current review of the Green Wedge Management Plan 2010-2025 is considered by PALS to be of paramount importance given the strong landowner focus of the mandate of the Nillumbik Shire Council (“NSC”) as constituted after the 2016 elections.

The current Council was elected in significant measure as a result of the coalescence of PALS to ventilate and advocate for the interests and rights of landowners in the Shire who are proud in their assertion of responsibility for the foundation, maintenance and majority ownership of Nillumbik’s cherished and widely envied Green Wedge.

THE ESSENTIAL MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GREEN WEDGE TO PALS

When the Shire of Nillumbik was formed in 1994, its strategic focus was on the conservation of the Green Wedge. Over time and with the recent (long forgotten or mistakenly overlooked) recognition of landowners’ critical role in the establishment of and management contribution to the Green Wedge, it is consideration and understanding of landowners’ value to the Green Wedge’s management which should provide Council with a clear refocus to balance its conservation emphasis with its responsible land management mandate. This vital role of landowners is the foundation for Council to weigh with renewed emphasis, this critical submission, particularly given the extensive PALS constituency in the Green Wedge.

NSC has itself recognised that Nillumbik’s ***“Green Wedge is distinguished from others by the quality of its environment and natural bushland. It covers approximately 91% of the total Shire area. The remaining 9% of the Shire is urban or township land within the Urban Growth Boundary. Almost half of the Green Wedge is a mixture of rural residential and hobby farms. 20% (sic) is used for agriculture, another 20% is conservation areas. Seventy-nine percent of the Green Wedge is in private ownership and approximately 43% of privately owned land is of environmental significance. (emphasis added)”***¹

1. Plan Melbourne Refresh Discussion Paper 2015 – Nillumbik Shire Council

PALS view and assessment of the Green Wedge is distilled through our pride and enjoyment - for our communities and townships - of the local rural area, with its rich and varied landscapes that exist throughout Nillumbik. The unique blend of farmland, pastures, open land, bushland, significant trees and areas of vegetation, houses, farm infrastructure, natural watercourses and dams, grazing animals of all varieties, business enterprises of farming, vineyards, olive groves and tree plantations throughout the rural parts of the Green Wedge, offers continual visual enjoyment, social and economic value to the Shire.

With the appreciable appeal of the Green Wedge of Nillumbik, in such close proximity to the world's liveable city – set to grow to a population of 8 million by 2050 - and with NSC's stated aim of becoming known as the world's most liveable Shire, PALS look forward to new homes being built to accommodate moderate population growth within our Green Wedge. The enjoyment of the people that live within the rural community, their rich and varied lives and stories, add interest and vitality to the landscape itself.

The townships are an integral component of the tapestry that makes up the Green Wedge, despite the fact that they are technically not part of it. While the Green Wedge is principally about the landscape, it is all of the attributes of the Shire that visitors, residents and those that just pass through it en route elsewhere, all enjoy.

PREVIOUS (2010-25) GWMP IMPLEMENTATION CRITIQUE

PALS has widely expressed its views and reconfirms here its conviction that the existing GWMP implementation has not been reflective of landowners expectations. With the impending renewal of the GWMP the opportunity exists for it to be made clear to NSC officers involved in its implementation that a healthy balance must be demonstrated - in recognition of the important landowner value to the Green Wedge – to manage perceptions of previously seemingly close collaboration of NSC with small but influential environmental interest groups over recent years. PALS remains cautiously optimistic that the internal reviews and human resources management inherent in the newly announced NSC organisational structure will result in improved outcomes with this GWMP review.

Responsible Green Wedge management is not about locking up the land, discouraging the human footprint, denying people the enjoyment of living within it, or shielding (or blocking) the visibility of buildings and human activity. Indeed allowing weed and feral animal infestations to explode by disallowing people to live on, or even access their own land runs counter to responsible management.

It is appropriate that the emphasis on Green Wedge management should be focused on the landscape and vistas. However the rich tapestry of the combination of human activity and open pastures blending with expanses of bushland, large trees and diverse wildlife, critically contributes to and will ultimately ensure the sustainable health of the landscape. In PALS view, the very essence of any GWMP should and can be distilled to the word – “**management**”. The purpose of a GWMP is to **manage** the landscape in its broader definition and ensure its long-term health by managing it responsibly, sustainably and so successfully.

A **management** plan within the context of a Green Wedge must be a broad policy document and should not seek to micro-manage what should properly be regarded as planning issues.

Economic considerations and factors

There is a legislative requirement to consider, accommodate and encourage appropriate economic development within the Green Wedge. There is also a simple reality that improved, appropriate and well considered economic development will significantly contribute to the health of the landscape.

Similarly, there is an obvious connection that healthy, profitable and viable enterprises will result in an increased likelihood of tourist and visitor attraction and activation, thereby associating a viable Green Wedge with business success. This should be a sought-after outcome that would deliver both a strong community benefit and a strong financial base from which to launch further enterprise. An examination of or comparison to The Yarra Valley or Dandenong Ranges clearly demonstrates the principles.

A dividend from a healthy rural economy is a broad return to NSC through rates, visitation/tourism generally and enhanced reputation as a successful place to foster economic enterprise.

Some of the land within the Green Wedge is of marginal quality for large scale farming and/or agricultural enterprises. There are notable exceptions to this generalisation with many successful businesses, vineyards, olive groves, farming, grazing and animal enterprises enhancing the broad rural farmland vistas so universally enjoyed, as well as the direct contribution to the health of the landscape and the local economy.

Successful farming or agricultural enterprises ensures a healthy landscape. These enterprises often comprise well maintained land, healthy pastures, plantations, dwellings and outbuildings, significantly motivated by prudent commercial interest. Successful enterprises preserve but properly maintain existing bushland with a key aim being that the passage of any wildfire will leave moderate impact and destruction. Wherever possible these enterprises and properties should be encouraged and protected from fragmentation.

There are also significant areas within the Green Wedge where the land is of a lesser quality and probably not, in isolation, capable of supporting any large scale farming/agricultural activities.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF GREEN WEDGE HUMAN INHABITATION

A notable challenge for our Green Wedge is to retain the open pastures, broad vistas and picturesque farmland in proper balance with the intertwining bushland, whilst considering how to deal with its less productive areas. It is PALS submission that the best strategy to achieve the ideal dual outcome of a healthy landscape and economic success as a community, is to encourage people to live within the Green Wedge.

PALS is not advocating for increased development and with it, increased subdivision. In fact PALS do not propose major change to existing controls on subdivision of land within the Green Wedge. The economic reality is that without people choosing to live within the Green Wedge, contributing to the economic health of the community, the ability to properly manage the health of the landscape will be significantly compromised.

Many of the existing parcels within the Green Wedge range from a few hundred square metres up to around 10 hectares. Currently there are virtually absolute and draconian controls over what

can be done on those parcels. The vast majority of these parcels contain some combination of open landscape and existing bushland. The extent and degree of existing controls, result in the compromise of a healthy landscape by placing excessive costs, sanctions and burdens on landowners that often result in poor property management, to say nothing of the social cost of living in an atmosphere of landowner harassment by and apprehension of its local government.

A signature outcome of PALS objective of fundamental change in NSC/landowner relations (from distrust to genuine collaboration) should be to improve the health of the landscape by encouraging productive / healthy outcomes resulting in an improved Green Wedge and properly maintained properties. This is best achieved with less controls and legitimate landowner/council cooperation.

LAND MANAGEMENT THROUGH LANDOWNER/COUNCIL RELATIONS

The importance of open land in relation to the ability to mitigate, manage and control significant fire events is well-recognised and critical. There is currently no support or incentive for landowners to improve their pastures or appropriately maintain their bushland. In fact, the opposite has been the orthodoxy in Nillumbik for generations. Landowners have been discouraged or actively pursued and sanctioned for adopting practices on their land which they have genuinely deployed to achieve a healthy landscape, minimise the impact of fire events by proper property maintenance, or introduce any animals or small scale economic enterprise.

Appropriate vegetation maintenance includes but does not inevitably require its removal. Undertaking a reasonable maintenance program to mitigate the impact of a major fire event across the land, that would otherwise potentially destroy it, is essentially a prudent and responsible component of Green Wedge land management. This may not include the removal of significant or major trees or stands of important vegetation, rather it would relate to the sensible removal and minimisation of ground fuel loads and infestation that would otherwise exacerbate the passage of a fire.

PALS calls for and action to effect cultural change, which will benefit Green Wedge management, have been motivated by landowners having experienced longterm, serious personal, environmental and economic challenges, such as:

Instead of receiving some financial, structural or moral support or understanding, they have been subjected to unnecessarily burdensome bureaucracy, including requirements for multiple reports, personal harassment by environmentalists, frequent or common intimidatory behaviour by NSC officers, together with substantial and often uncommercial financial costs. This, coupled with almost certain VCAT cases being mounted against their proposals, has resulted in Nillumbik having a reputation State wide as a Shire in which it is difficult or impossible to realise reasonable aspirations of developing one's dream home.

The prevailing atmosphere and experience of landowners in their dealings with NSC and with local and remote environmentalist individuals and groups (many who live outside the Shire) have included:

- Common delays of multiple years in approval to proceed with a land use/development;
- Negative and discouraging interaction, laced with assertions that land use intent has inherently damaging environmental outcomes (often characterised as of virtual criminal extent)
- Interpersonal interaction and widely disseminated published material, including spurious legal action, which, (if executed in other circumstances or in relation to matters other than environmental), would be generally considered - community wide - as unacceptable or in fact illegal.



The principal factor that threatens the long-term health of the landscape is the difficulty, stress and financial cost of dealing with an inefficient and overly bureaucratic planning system that is inherently weighted directly against any economic benefits that would otherwise be gained from new residents and new enterprises moving to the Green Wedge. This also stifles the ingenuity and spirit of existing landowners to improve their properties or initiate new enterprises on their land.

Questions relating to future affordability and whether the next generation of landowners will indeed be able to afford to buy and build abound as a result:

How will people afford land purchase, then \$150,000+ in consultants reports (plus construction costs and/or holding/finance costs) coupled with up to 3-4 years or more delay before determining “permission” to build?

If finally granted “permission” how would one then afford another \$50,000+ on an inevitable VCAT case defending “permission” against spurious challenge – often from extra-Shire actors?

Would one just go somewhere else? Is this fair and reasonable?

Is it the role of Government to endorse or encourage this treatment of its population in this manner?

Perpetuating such experiences with such a planning system only increases psychological stress across the community and discourages economic development, damaging social harmony.

There are many people who live within the Green Wedge on allotments which vary greatly in size and shape. Yet there is common myth that a parcel that someone else considers “small” should not be allowed to support a dwelling. This improperly perpetuated fiction hinders contribution to the ongoing economic health of the community and indeed to the Green Wedge itself. It is perverse and often espoused with hypocrisy by existing local, neighbouring inhabitants or worse still residents of distant Shires.

People contribute to a healthy local economy, to a healthy community and they will determine Nillumbik’s landscapes health its Green Wedge’s future.

Removal of the human footprint almost paradoxically imperils the Green Wedge. If people are denied the right to properly maintain property, or are removed from their land, or denied occupation of their land, the inescapable conclusion will be vast swathes of unmaintained, weed infested, feral bushland that will be inevitably devastated, given a major fire. If travelling on a strong northerly wind, such a fire could erase significant portions of Melbourne’s north east.

NSC TOURISM & ECONOMIC PRIORITIES & TRAJECTORY

The well intentioned **Artisan Hills** initiative has yet to produce significant tourist numbers. Nillumbik’s competition with the nearby Yarra Valley or the Dandenong Ranges should be redirected to exploration of joint strategic initiatives with these regions, capitalising on the Green Wedge values of our unique Shire. PALS encourages NSC to reduce red tape, genuinely encourage new industry consistent with its aspirational image projection and work with adjacent municipalities to develop a broader economic and tourism environment. Mudbrick housing and artist colony promotion should be bolstered by encouraging industry consistent with high quality, innovative local enterprise.

While our Green Wedge struggles to compete with the Yarra Valley or the Dandenong Ranges and with Banyule's "Heidelberg School" heritage, PALS recommends introduction of considered economic frameworks to encourage people to visit & buy quality products. An example would be to introduce a high-quality gallery / café / artist workshop in the Eltham Gateway district. This would provide tourists a visual introduction to the Green Wedge and Nillumbik Shire. Reliance on Montsalvat in this space does not generate needed vibrancy. The opportunity exists for a symbiotic relationship for such a proposed gallery/café with the neighbouring Eltham Miniature Railway, ideally located at the entrance to the Green Wedge Shire.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND FACTORS

A GWMP that contains micro-management detail in relation to **use** is not appropriate. The Planning Scheme is the correct mechanism to address **use** issues. The effect of micro-management on the social fabric within the community, particularly amongst the landowners that make up the Green Wedge, risks entrenching longheld mistrust of the NSC and its officers, particularly in relation to NSC's planning, environmental and enforcement functions. As applied by bureaucrats, (which includes State Government Departments and agencies) there has long been an unproductive adversarial orthodoxy. Delay and cost should be minimised and stress eliminated in land management and planning matters. The considerable social impact of previous NSC policy and conduct has stemmed from situations which have verged on comprising breach of residents' human rights.

The GWMP should have a positive emphasis and the opportunity exists to transform community and Green Wedge management settings from negative and hostile to positive and encouraging, with NSC having the confidence confirmed by PALS representations that landowners appreciate, respect and significantly manage the Green Wedge. Any purported or previously held concerns of landowner intent or motivation to damage or dismantle the Green Wedge can be confidently dismissed given PALS extensive Green Wedge credentials, history and constituency. The enhancement in resultant social cohesion should be embraced and enshrined in a reengineered and configured GWMP.

Encouragement of people to wish to be part of this community and to build on land that is situated within the Green Wedge, or to start a commercial enterprise and create a business should be made unambiguous in the GWMP given the clear social benefit dividend. Strong community identity and strong community bonds will develop. The social fabric will be strengthened by the mutual enjoyment of the space and the bond with neighbours. Mutual respect and a recognition of individual and common responsibilities to properly maintain and improve land, minimise the effects of fire events across land and deliver land onto the next generation in a better state than when acquired, are desirable ambitions for a GWMP properly designed and implemented .

The challenge for the GWMP panel and NSC is to deliver a plan that is genuine in its respect of all people within the Green Wedge. It should clearly enunciate that landowners deserve respect, appreciation and acknowledgement of the work undertaken, largely unassisted by council or its officers, in Green Wedge land management.



What is a net community benefit?

This term is often referred to in perplexing VCAT decisions of recent years. In cases where virtually all, (or the significant majority of) supportive and positive positions presented on behalf of applicants are conceded and acknowledged, VCAT defaults to rely on **“no net community benefit”** – an arcane concept - to thwart an applicant. New residents actually provide and not impede net community benefit with ongoing involvement and participation in the local community, local schools, clubs, shops, community groups, and importantly the local economy.

A new dwelling and infrastructure on allotments that satisfy all criteria for human safety, (which as noted by the 2009 Bushfire Royal Commission is of paramount consideration) tends to:

- facilitate better internal access for fire-fighting purposes,
- minimise the likelihood of the otherwise uncontrolled passage of fire across the landscape by the implementation of sensible, responsible property maintenance,
- deliver sensible onsite works, if required, to minimise the likelihood of property and infrastructure loss; and
- provide a safer fire refuge for the owners and possibly neighbours during adverse events.

PALS contends clear net community benefit results.

The contrary results from VCAT purport apparent net community benefit, when

- the land is left vacant and unmaintained;
- the proliferation of noxious weeds, fire accelerants like Burgan, feral and pest animals are unchecked; and
- access is hindered or made impossible for fire-fighting purposes imperilling the broader landscape and Green Wedge itself.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS AND FACTORS

There is a glaring omission with regard to the existing GWMP that must be urgently and unambiguously addressed. The current GWMP makes no real reference to the issues that relate to fire, its prevention and/or mitigation and the minimising of its effects across the Green Wedge landscape. The importance of this was formally recognised by the recent **Victorian Parliamentary Fire Season Preparedness Inquiry**, in which Nillumbik Shire was given singular prominence, after PALS extensive submissions.

NSC is referred to PALS submission to that important inquiry: https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/SCEP/Fire_Season_Preparedness/Submissions/Submission_59_-_Nillumbik_Pro_Active_Landowners.pdf



NSC is also referred to PALS submission to the **Victorian Government Review of Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations and Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy Review**. https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/SCEP/Fire_Season_Preparedness/Other_docs/Nillumbik_PALS-QON-28022017.pdf

These submissions should be read in concert with this current submission, as they have had substantive influence in Victoria, given Nillumbik's status as the world's most heavily vegetated, highly populated, fire prone zones on Earth.

The current GWMP lacked genuine community consultation and PALS acknowledges NSC for its renewed approach with this GWMP review process.

The current GWMP does contain some statements and action points that directly relate to a sensible and robust GWMP. The GWMP panel and NSC should endeavour to deliver a clear GWMP, the interpretation and implementation of which by council officers should be directed to clearly reflect community attitudes which demand a collaborative approach, removing any atmosphere of adversarial conduct. The resultant new GWMP must establish a valid and honourable consultation process and respond in the real world to the challenges related to genuine community engagement and inclusion.

NSC has now established effective communication with the landowners responsible for much of the Green Wedge and Council's previous access by and reference to small select individuals and environmental groups must be balanced with its consultation with landowners across the Shire, effectively and widely represented by PALS.

Importantly emblematic of a cultural change in relation to Green Wedge land management, all references to policing and "criminalisation" of land uses within the Green Wedge **must** be removed from the GWMP. The current GWMP is littered with references and action points aimed directly at the prohibition of uses. Extreme environmental approaches actually risk the compromise of the Green Wedge and have been rejected by the community as demonstrated by the election of the new Council in 2016. To fail to respond to this reality risks jeopardising a democratic outcome to this GWMP review.

To provide the Community Panel with additional valuable background information in relation to bushfire in Nillumbik, this submission is accompanied by the attached

Appendix A - History of Fires in the Shire of Nillumbik

SPECIFIC PALS RECOMMENDATIONS

The GWMP is a **management** document, not a **use** document. It must correctly and appropriately manage the landscape and the mechanisms required to achieve and preserve the ongoing health of that landscape.

A new GWMP should include an important emphasis (or entire chapter) on fire related issues as they clearly apply to the Green Wedge landscape. The relevance of fire management within the Green Wedge and its referral to appropriate practices and actions to mitigate and/or minimise its effects is not related to use. It is a management tool to maximise the safety and preservation of the landscape, property and human life. It is the most important management tool to get right.

PALS recommendations include that:

- the CFA be re-instated as a determining authority for planning applications;
- local CFA brigades enforce their existing legislation that empower road side fire maintenance works to be undertaken under the direct authority of the CFA without the need for council planning permits;
- planning of road side fire maintenance be co-ordinated by the CFA local brigades with the power to direct that other agencies undertake the works if appropriate, such as the council or private landowners;
- proper and regular maintenance of both private and public land should be a priority within the Green Wedge;
- establishment be prioritised of a suitably qualified working group to investigate, calculate and set a limit of permissible ground fuel (tons/hectare) that, once exceeded, would require fuel reduction burns under the control of local CFA brigades or other works as required to reduce the ground fuel.

Recognition is stated in the GWMP that:

- appropriate fire maintenance along road reserves plays a crucial role in the ability to provide break lines or defence lines which may reduce or delay the uncontrolled spread of fire events;
- that fire-safe road reserves provide an artery for CFA and fire-fighting teams to gain access to, or retreat from, fire events;
- that fire-safe road reserves provide an avenue for potentially life-saving egress from fire affected areas to all people that happen, either by circumstance or design, to find themselves faced with their own evacuation;
- adoption of indigenous fire burn techniques is a valuable tool and the establishment prioritised of an ongoing working relationship with indigenous experts to plan and execute a suitable fire plan and cool burning regime to minimise both the short-term and long-term effects of uncontrolled major fire events,



- empowers individual landowners to undertake appropriate maintenance both within their boundaries as well as adjacent road frontages to minimise the effects of fire events, without the need for a planning permit;
- prioritises the establishment of an incentive scheme for landowners to undertake the above works through a discount in their council rates.

IMPLEMENTATION

The key to a successful GWMP lies within the controls and mechanisms related to its implementation. The existing GWMP has failed based on the premise that prohibition, refusal and denial of rights was the foundation of a successful Green Wedge, an approach rejected by a majority of those living in and responsible for the Green Wedge.

Historical aerial photography (Google Earth, Near Map time scale aerial photography) clearly shows that despite the increased number of:

- dwellings dotted throughout the Green Wedge; and
- business enterprises now operating within the Green Wedge; and
- roads through the Green Wedge;

the volume of vegetation, both at ground level and canopy level has significantly increased. The net effect of these types of increases was disastrously seen with the 2009 Black Saturday fires where the build up of ground fuels and vegetation contributed to the severe impacts across the landscape and affected communities.

The intervening years from 2009 to 2018 have seen ground fuel loads and vegetation increase dramatically and now exceed the loads of pre-2009.

The importance and relevance of proper property maintenance has never been higher than it is now.

Benefits of a well maintained property include:

- a healthy landscape;
- minimisation of the spread of noxious weeds and imported rampant vegetation;
- preservation and encouragement of existing areas of genuinely significant landscapes;
- preservation and encouragement of existing areas of significant vegetation,
- financial and psychological security for landowners and for the wider community;
- delivering a net community benefit.

The dividend from a healthy landscape as determined by a well maintained property, is the overall and enduring broad appeal of the Green Wedge across the community.



Implementation directives in the GWMP must contain quantifiable key targets that are assessed against results and real-time actions.

The key targets could include (but not be limited to) ongoing:

- Community consultation
- Engagement with stakeholders
- Fire related maintenance targets
- Progress of fire maintenance plans
- Engagement with affected landowners
- Revision of rebate through rates towards best practice property maintenance
- Removal of red tape in relation to individual rights and responsibilities
- Updates on Regulatory Reform initiatives

Progress made against targets should be reviewed each year over the life of the GWMP. There must also be a consequential outcome if targets are not achieved. Sufficient ongoing resources must be allocated to ensure that the proper action and ongoing assessment is actually undertaken and remedial action taken to get errant results back on target. Reporting against the targets may be best undertaken by a selected Working Group consisting of relevant council officer that is appropriately qualified, CFA representative, LandCare representative as well as a representation from affected landowners - which PALS would be prepared to provide.

In recognition of the custodianship that landowners by default provide, there should be direct and immediate incentives incorporated into the GWMP.

These should include:

- a program assessed against annual performance to remove red tape on all planning applications within the Green Wedge;
- to link required reports to a strict needs basis only and to remove all reports from applications for dwellings where no vegetation is affected or assessed for removal;
- acceptance of CFA approval for planning applications, with no counter "precautionary principle" assessment applicable;
- acceptance of qualified engineering, ecological and other relevant reports removing internal crosschecking aimed at finding errors or mistakes;
- encouragement of business opportunities within the Green Wedge, particularly those that may offer an innovative and/or unique opportunity to bring visitors / tourists to the Green Wedge. Emphasis on high quality products;

- adoption of VicSmart principles with regard to straightforward applications for all single dwelling applications and defined catalogue of “as of right” land management activities current unnecessarily requiring planning permits (eg simple fencing etc);
- development of extensive and specific catalogue of “as of right” triggers with reference to dwellings, works, infrastructure and/or out buildings and any proposed extensions or additional works;
- immediate and unambiguous introduction of policy to guarantee landowners’ right to rebuild on their property should they lose their home, infrastructure and outbuildings to fire or other disaster.

Some matters listed above may be included into changes to the regulatory requirements to assist in the full facilitation of a successful Green Wedge.

REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS AND FACTORS

The principal consideration from a regulatory perspective is an independent assessment as to whether the zoning that exists within the Green Wedge land now is appropriate into the future. There are a variety of zones, overlays and schedules that currently apply throughout the Green Wedge. All directly contribute to excessive red tape and burdensome restrictive controls.

This appears to be particularly applicable to the Nillumbik Green Wedge, where the direction of a GWMP acting in conjunction with the required Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) sits in a convoluted and uneasy partnership with the large number of existing zoning controls and overlays.

Key recommendation for Community Panel consideration:

Does the existing regulatory framework deliver the best conditions and solutions for the Nillumbik Green Wedge? PALS submit that it does not.

The landscape that makes up a green wedge, in particular the Nillumbik Green Wedge, should reflect the essence of Green Wedge principles, irrespective of its location. It should not sit in conflict, with other planning principles, which in this location is based around Rural Conservation Zones (RCZ).

Clause 35.04 of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme facilitates the creation of a Green Wedge Zone (GWZ). There is clear logic that indicates a GWZ would be the most appropriate zoning for a Green Wedge area. Why have a Green Wedge if it is not controlled by a GWZ?

The principle of the creation of a Green Wedge is to satisfy and work within the parameters set out in the GWZ and accompanying schedules. The legislative requirements clearly establish what must be satisfied in order to create a GWMP, yet in Nillumbik, unlike other Green Wedges, there is no GWZ in existence.

The controls set out in the planning scheme in relation to a GWZ establish what must be achieved.



These controls should be consistent across all Green Wedges, yet within the Nillumbik Green Wedge this is not the case. There are conflicts and jurisdictional issues where the controls through RCZ's cut across the principles of a Green Wedge. This should not be so and needs to be addressed.

A GWZ does follow a similar pathway to an RCZ. There are common themes in relation to vegetation and preservation of areas of environmental significance, but there are also differences between the approach to economic development, social benefits, community benefits and the acceptance that human occupation is a good outcome for the landscape. A GWZ sits more comfortably with the concept that people can be encouraged to build within the Green Wedge whilst still retaining some control over those parameters, albeit of a lesser complexity than RCZ dictates.

PALS insist that the overriding goal of any GWMP, any resultant or associated process or regulatory control should be simplification not complication. There is a clear opportunity to achieve a less complicated process by reducing the amount of red tape, the burden on and cost to applicants and thereby the community, as well as creating a more harmonious community along the way.

The State Government and Governments nationally recognise contemporary trends towards the use of plain English in legislation and the reduction of red tape. Consequently, The State of Victoria has established The Office of The Red Tape Commissioner, with whom PALS have held extensive discussions in person. NSC must similarly recognise and adopt this approach in the consideration and development of a new GWMP for the next generation by fundamentally and significantly reducing red tape in this critically important document both for the current and successive generations.

CONCLUSION

The long-term health of the Green Wedge is inextricably bound to the long-term health of the people that live within it. A GWMP for the future should provide a framework that both protects what is important within a Green Wedge, whilst simultaneously providing encouragement for people to live within it. These goals are comfortably compatible.

Nillumbik PALS thank the Community Panel for its important work and commend this submission to the Panel. We look forward to the opportunity to make any further contribution or submission to inform or assist the Panel in the development of the new GWMP, which we consider to be amongst the most critical work for the current Nillumbik Shire Council since its election.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Crock".

Damian Crock
Chair-Working Group 13
July 2018

APPENDIX A

PRODUCTIVE
LANDOWNERS

HISTORY OF FIRES IN THE SHIRE OF NILLUMBIK

Black Thursday, 6th February, 1851

It is believed that the devastating fires began in the Plenty Ranges when a couple of bullock drivers left logs burning unattended, which set fire to long, dry grass affected by a severe drought. The fire hurtled down the course of the Plenty River into the outskirts of Melbourne. It burnt east to Diamond Creek and Dandenong and west through to the Western District. The fires destroyed more than 5 million hectares in Victoria.

Black Sunday, 14 February 1926

Bushfires swept across the Yarra Valley, the Dandenong Ranges and the Kinglake area. The fires had originated in forest areas on 26 January, but wind gusts of up to 97 km per hour led to the joining of the fire fronts on 14 February. Mt Disappointment to Kinglake Fire originating in Wandong burnt out most of Mt Disappointment and then jumped into Bruce's Creek, Humevale, Strathewen and Kinglake. No lives lost but many houses burnt.

February 1927

Fire burnt from Arthurs Creek, through St Andrews, Smiths Gully, Panton Hill, Christmas Hills, Watsons Creek, Kangaroo Ground, North Warrandyte, and Warrandyte.

Black Friday, 13th February, 1939

Flames leapt large distances, giant trees were blown out of the ground by fierce winds and large pieces of burning bark (embers) were carried for kilometres ahead of the main fire front, starting new fires in places that had not yet been affected by flames. The townships of Warrandyte, and Yarra Glen, were badly damaged. The Strathewen area was also badly affected.

14th January, 1944

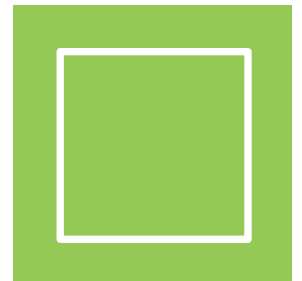
Fire burnt from Wattle Glen through to Research. Ten houses were destroyed and approximately 700 hectares were burnt.

28th February 1957

Fires started in Plenty Gorge and burnt through Plenty, Diamond Creek, St Helena and Greensborough. One person was killed, six houses and a church were destroyed.

14th - 16th January 1962

Fire started on Sunday 14th January in Christmas Hills with a south easterly wind behind it, taking it towards Dixons Creek, Steels Creek, and Kinglake. On early Tuesday 16th January the wind changed to a raging hot northerly driving the fire through St Andrews, Smiths Gully, Panton Hill, Watsons Creek, Kangaroo Ground, Warrandyte and Wonga Park. Two people were killed and 180 houses were destroyed.



3rd March, 1965

Fires burnt through St Helena and North Eltham. Another fire started in Research and burnt through North Warrandyte, jumping the Yarra River into Warrandyte. In all, three lives were lost and fifteen houses destroyed.

Black Wednesday, 8th January 1969

Fire started in Diamond Creek with a north westerly wind behind it. The fire burnt through Diamond Creek, St Helena, North Eltham, Research, Kangaroo Ground, and North Warrandyte.

Not long afterwards another fire started in Laceys Road, Cottlesbridge. The fire burnt through Panton Hill.

In all, 54 houses were destroyed in the former Shire of Eltham.

January 1991

Fire started at Pound Bend and burned across the Yarra River into North Warrandyte burning a total of 45 hectares.

Black Saturday, 7th February, 2009

Devastating, fast moving fire burnt through Strathewen, St Andrews, and Christmas Hills. The fires progression toward the centre of St Andrews, Smiths Gully, Panton Hill, Kangaroo Ground, and towns in the southern part of the Shire of Nillumbik was halted by a south westerly wind change, which drove the fire front further east, destroying the towns of Kinglake and Steeles Creek. Many lives and houses were lost.